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EVER WISH YOU COULD  
DISAPPEAR? YOU'LL  
CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN  
YOU READ THIS SENSATIONAL  
STORY...  
**THE CIRCULAR TRAP!**

LOOK!  
HE... HE'S  
DISAPPEARING!





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# The CIRCULAR TRAP!

BY THE GODS  
ISIS AND OSIRIS!  
HE... HE IS  
DISAPPEARING!

WITHIN THE YELLOWING ARCHIVES OF THE PAST, MANY A STRANGE MYSTERY IS BURIED, PROBABLY LOST FOREVER! BUT DR. MITYA RESHEVSKY OF THE RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE STUMBLED UPON A FANTASTIC DISCOVERY IN OLD FILES... ONE IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE... HAD HE NOT SEEN THE **PROOF** WITH HIS OWN EYES!

IN THE WINTER OF 1944, A GREAT BATTLE RAGED ACROSS THE FROZEN RUSSIAN STEPPES BETWEEN HORDES OF NAZIS AND REDS...

WHAM!

POW!

AFTER DAYS OF SAVAGE FIGHTING THERE CAME A LULL! IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, THE BATTLE-FIELD WAS STILL... NOTHING MOVED... EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN...

WH-WHAT  
AM I DOING  
HERE? WHO  
ARE THESE  
PEOPLE?





WHO WAS THIS ODDLY CLAD STRANGER? WHAT WAS HE DOING IN THE BLIZZARD-SWEPT NO-MAN'S-LAND?

I...I'M IN DANGER HERE FROM THE DEATH-DEALING DEVICES THESE PEOPLE HURL OVER GREAT DISTANCES! BUT FIRST I MUST GET WARM CLOTHING, LEST I FREEZE!



NO SOONER HAD HE CHANGED GARB THAN HE RAN INTO A RED PATROL...

JOIN US, COMRADE! ALL OUR UNITS ARE BADLY MAULED! WHAT REGIMENT WERE YOU WITH?

REGIMENT? I...I...

THE PATROL LEADER ASKED MANY QUESTIONS, AND THE STRANGER WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER...



HE'S NOT ONE OF OURS! HE MUST BE A SPY! I SAY LET'S SHOOT HIM!

NO...HE MAY BE SHELL-SHOCKED! AND IF HE IS A SPY, WE SHOULD TAKE HIM BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS!

SOVIET INTERROGATORS IN THE REAR LINES LEARNED NOTHING! THE CAPTIVE SEEMED TREMENDOUSLY DAZED BY EVERYTHING...

COME ON, TELL US! YOU'RE A GERMAN WEARING OUR UNIFORM, RIGHT?

HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A GERMAN TO ME! WHAT'S THE BLUE CIRCLE ON HIS HEAD FOR?



SOON AFTERWARDS, IN MOSCOW—

A PECULIAR PRISONER HAS BEEN SENT US FROM THE FRONT, RESHEVSKY—NOBODY CAN GET ANYTHING OUT OF HIM! THINK YOU CAN SUCCEED?

YOU MAY DEPEND ON IT, SIR!

DR. MITYA RESHEVSKY WAS A MAN WHO HAD ALWAYS SUCCEEDED WHERE OTHERS HAD FAILED...

ALL RIGHT, YOU, I'LL TOLERATE NO NONSENSE! START TALKING, AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

I...HAVE NOTHING TO SAY!

LISTEN, MY FRIEND, EITHER YOU TALK OR I'LL ORDER UNPLEASANT METHODS USED! YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

YES... PERFECTLY! LISTEN—I'M WILLING TO MAKE A BARGAIN!







I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING, AND ALL I ASK IN RETURN IS A PIECE OF **BLUE CHALK!** AGREED?

BLUE CHALK? WELL... I CAN'T SEE WHAT HARM CAN COME OF THAT! IT'S A BARGAIN! NOW START TALKING!

ONLY WHEN THE CHALK WAS SECURELY IN HIS HAND DID THE PRISONER RELAX! FROM HIS VERY FIRST WORDS, RESHEVSKY WAS SURE HE HAD A LUNATIC IN HIS PRESENCE...

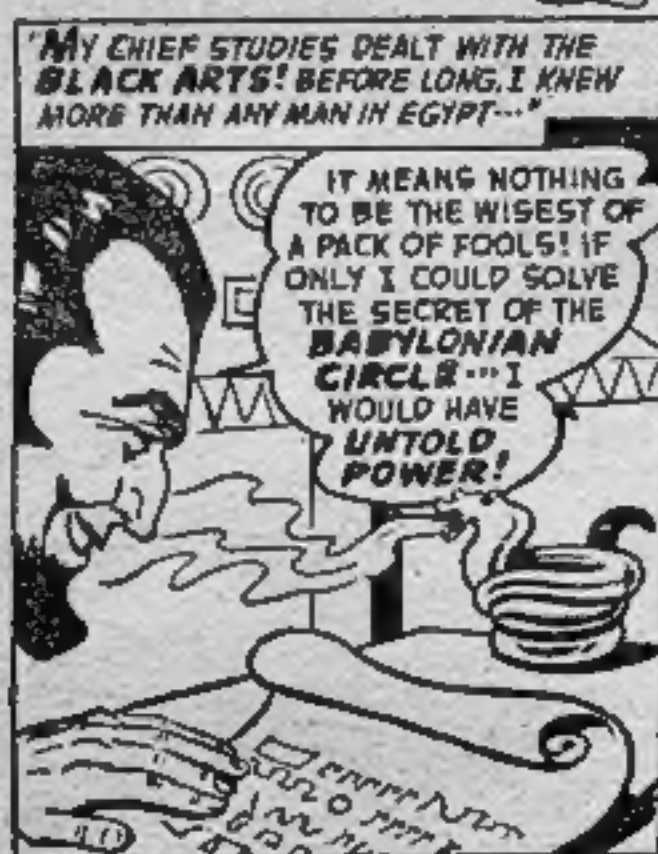
MY TRUE NAME IS **IKNATON!** IN EGYPT OVER 4000 YEARS AGO I WAS ONE OF THE PHARAOH'S CHIEF SOOTHSAYERS AND ASTRONOMERS! YOU THINK ME MAD, BUT LISTEN...



THOUGH I WAS YOUNG, I HAD COME FAR! I WAS MUCH RESPECTED, BUT ALSO FEARED...

BEWARE, IKNATON-- YOU SEEK TO KNOW TOO MUCH! ONLY HARM CAN COME OF DELVING INTO **FORBIDDEN MYSTERIES!**

I HAVE NO FEAR OF KNOWLEDGE! I WISH TO KNOW **EVERYTHING!**



MY CHIEF STUDIES DEALT WITH THE **BLACK ARTS!** BEFORE LONG, I KNEW MORE THAN ANY MAN IN EGYPT...

IT MEANS NOTHING TO BE THE WISEST OF A PACK OF FOOLS! IF ONLY I COULD SOLVE THE SECRET OF THE **BABYLONIAN CIRCLE**... I WOULD HAVE **UNTOLD POWER!**

"I WORKED ON AND ON, LEARNING ALL I COULD OF **ASTROLOGY**, STUDYING THE STARS AT NIGHT..."

THIS IS MADNESS, IKNATON! THE **BABYLONIAN CIRCLE** WAS NOT MEANT FOR MAN'S KNOWLEDGE! GIVE IT UP!



I CAN'T! NOT WHEN THE SOLUTION IS ALMOST WITHIN MY GRASP!

"OLD LEGENDS TOLD HOW THE MYSTIC CIRCLE COULD CAUSE A MAN TO **DISAPPEAR**, AND THEY SPOKE OF SOMETHING ELSE..."

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO A MAN WHO **VANISHES!** THE LEGENDS SAY ONLY **DOOM** CAN COME TO HIM WHO ENTERS INTO THE CIRCLE'S POWER!

I FEAR NOTHING! I SHALL CONTINUE MY WORK!

AT LAST, I WAS SURE I HAD WRESTED THE SECRET FROM THE DARK UNKNOWN! BUT WHEN THE TIME CAME TO TEST IT, MY HEART **QUAILED**...

ALL I NEED DO IS DRAW THE CIRCLE ON MY FOREHEAD, AND CONCENTRATE MY EYES **INWARD!** BUT I DON'T DARE YET... I... I FEAR THE **UNKNOWN!**





"I WAITED AND WORRIED, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO! IN THE MEANWHILE, FATE TOOK A HAND IN MY LIFE--"

THE PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER--HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS! IF ONLY SHE COULD BE MINE! BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE--SHE IS OF NOBLE BLOOD!



"SOON HER FACE OBSESSED ME! A DESPERATE PLAN FORMED IN MY MIND--"

THE PHARAOH WOULD BEHEAD ME IF I DARED ASK FOR HER HAND! BUT THERE IS A WAY TO WIN HER, SO WHY SHOULDN'T I USE IT? KNOWLEDGE IS POWER--AND I KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE!



"AND SO, USING MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCULT, I PUT A SPELL ON THE LOVELY YOUNG PRINCESS! THE ROYAL PHYSICIANS WERE HELPLESS, AND THE PHARAOH WAS BESIDE HIMSELF--"

SHE'S ALL I HAVE! CAN'T ANY OF YOU DO ANYTHING?

I CAN, YOUR HIGHNESS--FOR A PRICE!



"EVERYONE IN THE CHAMBER WAS ASTOUNDED AT MY AUDACITY! THE PHARAOH'S EYES BLAZED FIRE--"

YOU--YOU DARE BARGAIN WITH ME? I'LL HAVE YOU--

ONLY I CAN RELEASE HER FROM THE SPELL WHICH GRIPS HER, GREAT ONE! I SHALL DO SO--IF SHE BECOMES MY WIFE!

"HE WAS HORRIFIED AT THE SUGGESTION, BUT HE HAD NO CHOICE--"

A ROYAL PRINCESS--YOUR WIFE? I--I MUST HAVE TIME TO THINK--

OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS! BUT UNLESS YOU DECIDE MY WAY, SHE WILL NEVER AWAKE!



"I LEFT, CERTAIN OF MY TRIUMPH! LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT I HAD SEALED MY DOOM--"

WHAT CAN I DO? SHE MUST LIVE, AND IF THERE'S NO OTHER WAY--

THERE IS, MAJESTY! IF IKHATON WORKED THIS SPELL, IT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY BROKEN AT THE MOMENT OF HIS DEATH! I SAY, EXECUTE HIM!

GUARDS SEIZED ME IN MY CHAMBERS, DRAGGED ME BEFORE THE WRATHFUL PHARAOH--

IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO, I'LL--

I AM TIRED OF YOUR THREATS! TAKE HIM TO THE DUNGEON--LET HIM DIE AT DAWN!







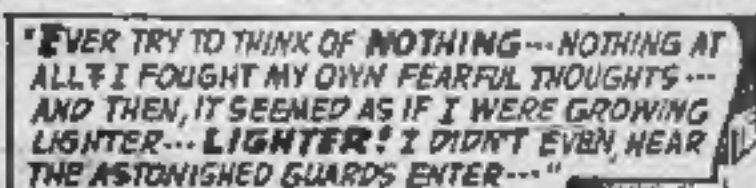
"I HAD OUTSMARTED MYSELF, FORGETTING THAT DEATH ENDS ALL SPELLS! TIME DRAGGED WITH AGONIZING SLOWNESS..."

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE DAWN! WHAT CAN I DO? HOW CAN I ESCAPE? IF ONLY THERE WERE... BY THE GODS OF THE NILE, I AM A FOOL! THERE IS A WAY!



"THE BABYLONIAN CIRCLE... THAT WAS THE ANSWER! WHAT DID DANGER MATTER NOW? I HAD NOTHING TO LOSE! I FOUND A TINY PIECE OF THE NECESSARY BLUE CHALK IN MY POCKET..."

IT IS DONE! THE CIRCLE ON THE WALL AND ON MY FOREHEAD! NOW I MUST FREE MY MIND OF ALL THOUGHT... EVEN THE DOOM HANGING OVER ME! MY BRAIN MUST BE EMPTY! IT'S... HARD...

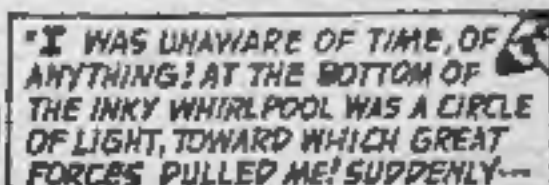


BY THE GODS ISIS AND OSIRIS! HE... HE IS DISAPPEARING!



"I FELT MYSELF SUCKED INTO A DARK VORTEX OF SPINNING BLACKNESS! I WAS AWARE OF NOTHING, ONLY A FAINT AIRY DIZZINESS, AND MEANINGLESS WORDS..."

HE'S VANISHING!



"I WAS UNAWARE OF TIME, OF ANYTHING! AT THE BOTTOM OF THE INKY WHIRLPOOL WAS A CIRCLE OF LIGHT, TOWARD WHICH GREAT FORCES PULLED ME! SUDDENLY..."



"I FOUND MYSELF IN A STRANGE WOOD, ALONE! WHEN I HEARD VOICES I HID FROM VIEW..."

TIME FOR DINNER, LEOPOLD... I'M HUNGRY AS A BEAR!

STRANGE, I CAN UNDERSTAND THEIR SPEECH, EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT EGYPTIAN! THEIR CLOTHES... SO DIFFERENT FROM OURS! WHAT CAN IT ALL MEAN?



"I REALIZED THAT IN SOME WAY, I HAD BEEN FLUNG FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE! I KEPT OUT OF SIGHT, SENSING THAT MY EGYPTIAN CLOTHES WERE A DANGER TO ME! WHEN I CAME UPON A WOODSMAN ALONE, I CREEPT UP STEALTHILY..."

WITH HIS CLOTHES, I CAN EXPLORE THE AREA WITHOUT DANGER!









"IN A SUBTERRANEAN DUNGEON..."

WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH  
**SORCERERS HERE!**

THE FOOLS  
THINK THEY  
HAVE ME  
TRAPPED!  
I'D LIKE TO  
SEE THEIR  
FACES WHEN  
THEY COME  
UPON THE  
**EMPTY**  
**CELL** IN THE  
MORNING!



*The*  
MOMENT I  
WAS ALONE,  
I DREW THE  
**BABYLONIAN**  
**CIRCLE**  
ON THE DAMP  
WALL AND ON  
MY FOREHEAD!  
THIS TIME  
THE PROCESS  
WENT  
MORE  
SWIFTLY...



I FEEL MYSELF GROWING  
LIGHTER... **WEIGHTLESS!**  
SOON THE VORTEX WILL  
SEIZE ME...

MOMENTS LATER...

I'M FREE AGAIN!  
WHERE WILL I ARRIVE  
AT **THIS** TIME?



AS THE PRISONER'S TALE ENDED...

YOU KNOW THE REST! TO MY  
DISMAY, I FOUND MYSELF ON A  
BATTLEFIELD...

YOU'VE TRIED MY  
PATIENCE LONG  
ENOUGH!



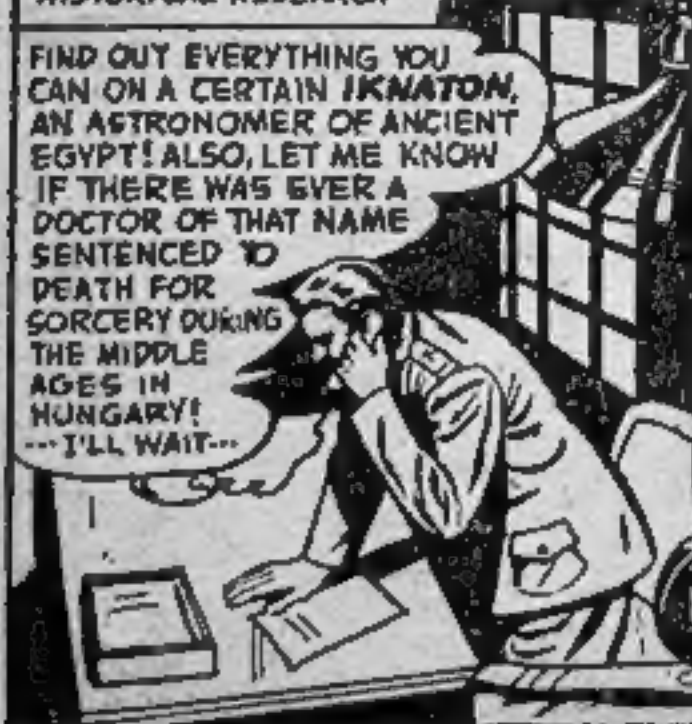
UNLESS YOU TELL ME  
THE **TRUTH**, YOU'LL MEET  
A FIRING SQUAD AT SUNRISE!  
THINK IT OVER!

I **KNEW** THE FOOL  
WOULD NOT BELIEVE ME!  
ALL I NEED IS A FEW  
MOMENTS ALONE AND  
THEY'LL **NEVER**  
**SEE ME**  
**AGAIN!**



THE MOMENT GUARDS LED THE CAPTIVE  
AWAY, RESNEVSKY CALLED THE BUREAU OF  
HISTORICAL RESEARCH...

FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU  
CAN ON A CERTAIN **IKNATON**,  
AN ASTRONOMER OF ANCIENT  
EGYPT! ALSO, LET ME KNOW  
IF THERE WAS EVER A  
DOCTOR OF THAT NAME  
SENTENCED TO  
DEATH FOR  
SORCERY DURING  
THE MIDDLE  
AGES IN  
HUNGARY!  
...I'LL WAIT...



TO HIS AMAZEMENT...

**WHAT?** THERE  
ACTUALLY WERE SUCH  
PEOPLE? AND YOU SAY  
BOTH ESCAPED FROM  
PRISON MYSTERIOUSLY?  
...ARE YOU SURE?



FOR A MOMENT, THE COOL RUSSIAN  
INTERROGATOR WAS ASTOUNDED...

NO DOUBT THE MAN **COULD**  
HAVE LEARNED THE INFORMATION  
FOR HIMSELF... BUT IT'S CERTAINLY  
UNUSUAL! ANYHOW, WHY SHOULD HE  
WANT TO PALM THAT STUFF OFF  
ON ME? WHAT'S HIS GAME?  
I... I THINK I'LL HAVE  
ANOTHER TALK WITH  
HIM!





**BUT RESHEVSKY WAS TOO LATE!  
FOR WHEN HE ENTERED THE CELL---**

**L-LOOK!**  
GREAT HEAVENS!  
HE--HE'S **VANISHING**  
BEFORE OUR  
EYES!



**NEXT MOMENT, THE PRISONER  
WAS GONE---**

IT **COULDN'T**  
HAVE HAPPENED!  
WE MUST HAVE  
**IMAGINED**  
IT!  
BUT IT--IT  
**DID** HAPPEN!  
THEN HE WAS  
TELLING ME  
THE **TRUTH!**  
HE--HE'S **VANISHED**  
INTO TIME--  
AND WHO CAN  
KNOW WHERE  
HE IS  
**NOW?**



**TIME! WHAT IS IT? FOR AT THE  
MOMENT OF RESHEVSKY'S CON-  
FUSION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE  
20TH CENTURY, IKNATON FOUND  
HIMSELF BACK IN ANCIENT  
EGYPT!**

OH, **NO**--- THIS  
MUSTN'T BE TRUE! THE **CIRCLE**  
HAS BROUGHT ME **BACK**  
**TO WHERE I STARTED**  
--- WITH A SENTENCE OF **DOOM**  
UPON ME! I'VE GOT TO GET  
OUT OF HERE,  
BEFORE THE  
GUARDS DIS-  
COVER  
ME!



**HE USED HIS POWERS ONCE MORE,  
CERTAIN THAT SOME MISTAKE HAD  
OCCURRED! BUT WHEN THE VORTEX  
RELEASED HIM AGAIN---**

I--I'M IN THE **HUNGARIAN**  
**CELL**--- WITH THE SAME  
SENTENCE WAITING! I  
CAN'T LINGER HERE---  
IT'S ALMOST DAWN!



**FRANTIC NOW, HE GAVE HIMSELF  
UP TO THE POWER OF THE  
BABYLONIAN CIRCLE  
AGAIN! HE ALMOST EXPECTED  
WHAT HAPPENED---**

THE **RUSSIAN CELL!** I--I'M  
TRAPPED---TRAPPED IN A  
**NEVER-ENDING CIRCLE OF  
DOOM!** I--I CAN'T ESCAPE  
MY FATE! BUT I'VE GOT TO  
KEEP TRYING! I **MUST** BREAK  
OUT OF THE TRAP!



**A PASSING GUARD HAPPENED TO  
GLANCE INTO THE CELL JUST THEN---**

WHAT THE---! HE'S  
COME BACK---AND NOW  
HE'S DISAPPEARING AGAIN!  
I'D BETTER CALL  
RESHEVSKY!



**IKNATON'S  
MOVES  
BECAME  
EVER MORE  
FRANTIC,  
BUT NOW  
HE KNEW  
THAT THERE  
WAS NO  
ESCAPE!  
FOR ONCE  
MORE HE  
FOUND  
HIMSELF  
IN THE  
PRISON'S  
DUNGEON---**

NO MATTER **WHAT** I DO, I  
RETURN TO THE **SAME**  
**PLACES!** WHEREVER  
I GO, I AM **DOOMED!** NOW  
I UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS  
MEANT BY THE OLD LEGENDS  
WHICH SAID THAT THE **CIRCLE**  
DESTROYS ALL WHO  
TRAFFIC  
WITH  
IT!



THE **NIGHT**  
WAS PASSING  
--- A GLEAM  
OF LIGHT  
APPEARED  
ON THE  
HORIZON!  
TO THE END,  
IKNATON  
TRIED TO  
BREAK  
OUT OF THE  
TRAP, BUT  
AT LAST---

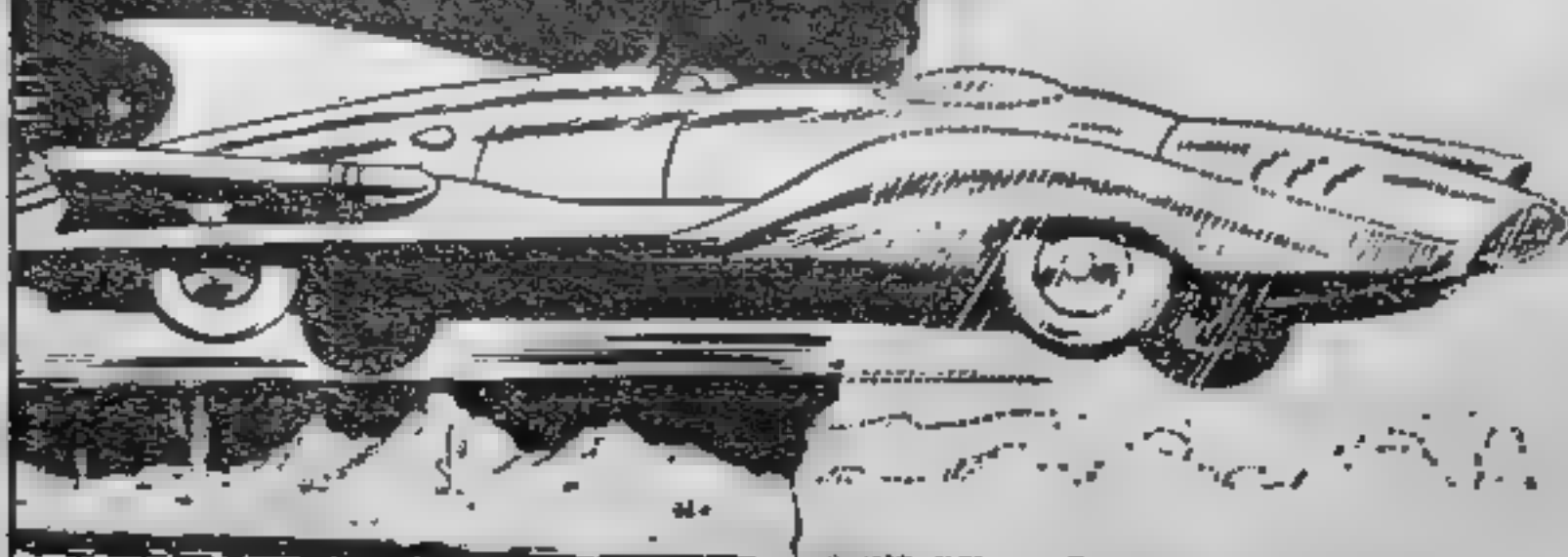
THEY---THEY SEEM TO BE COMING AT ME  
FROM ALL SIDES NOW! I CAN'T  
ESCAPE! WHICH DOOM SHALL I  
CHOOSE? WHICH? WHAT  
SHOULD I DO?





# STRANGE JOURNEY

STORY:  
THOMAS B.  
DREW  
ART:  
OGDEN  
WHITNEY



PROFESSOR BORDONI'S ODD VEHICLE WAS A MASTERPIECE IN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION! BUT WHEN HE THREW THE SWITCH TO **IL** POSITION -- WHEN HE SAW WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE -- IT WAS TOO LATE TO TURN BACK!

ONE AFTERNOON, AT A FAMOUS TESTING-GROUNDS FOR HIGH-SPEED RACING CARS--

HERE HE COMES NOW, AND LOOK AT THAT SPEED!

HE'S DOING BETTER THAN FIVE HUNDRED!

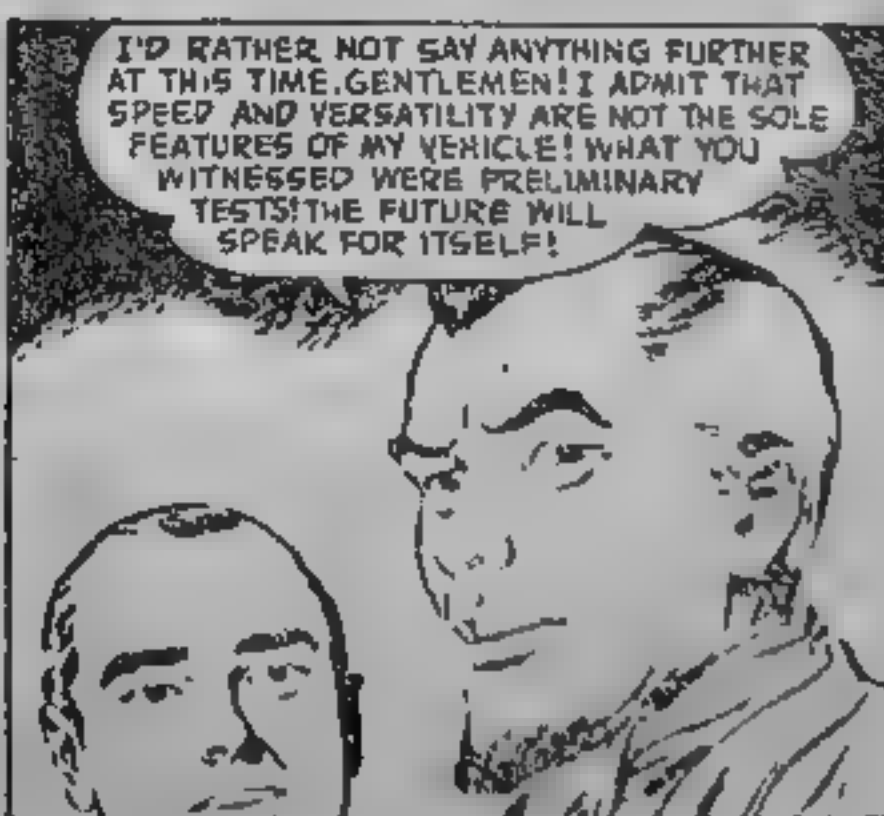
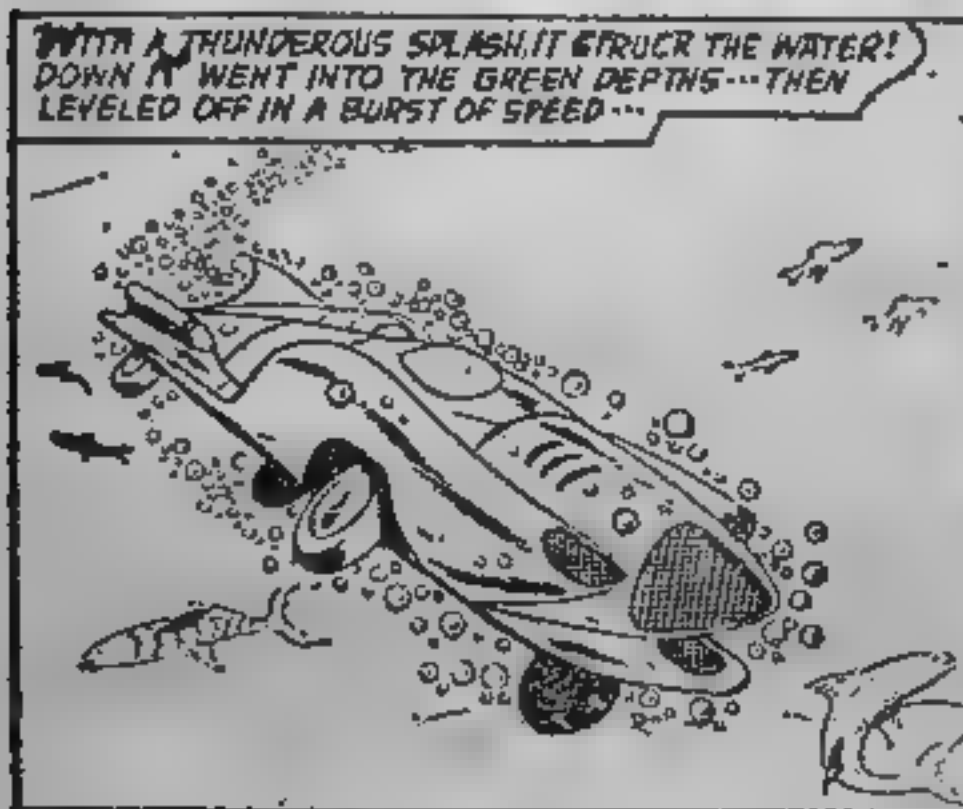


IT'S FANTASTIC!

THE PROFESSOR SAID HE HAD SOME REAL SURPRISES FOR US, AND HE WAS **RIGHT!**









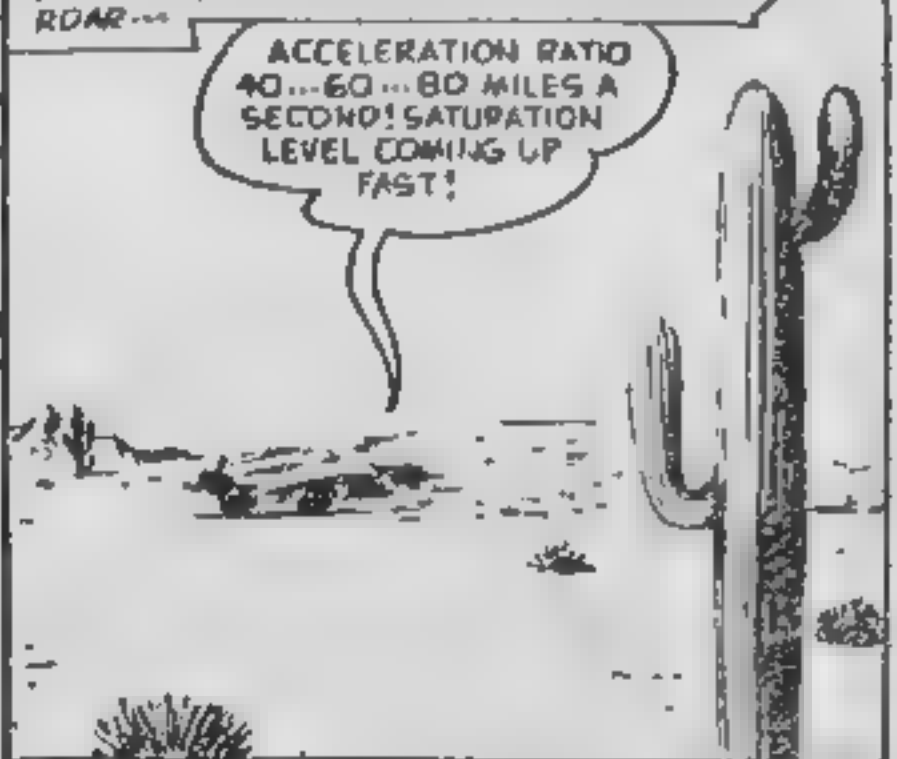
**A WEEK LATER, ON A LONELY DESERT HIGHWAY...**

THIS IS ABOUT AS GOOD  
A SPOT AS I'LL FIND ANY-  
WHERE! IN A LITTLE WHILE  
I'LL KNOW THE ANSWER  
...OR PERHAPS NEVER...



**THE CAR GUNNED FORWARD WITH A MUFFLED  
ROAR...**

ACCELERATION RATIO  
40...60...80 MILES A  
SECOND! SATURATION  
LEVEL COMING UP  
FAST!



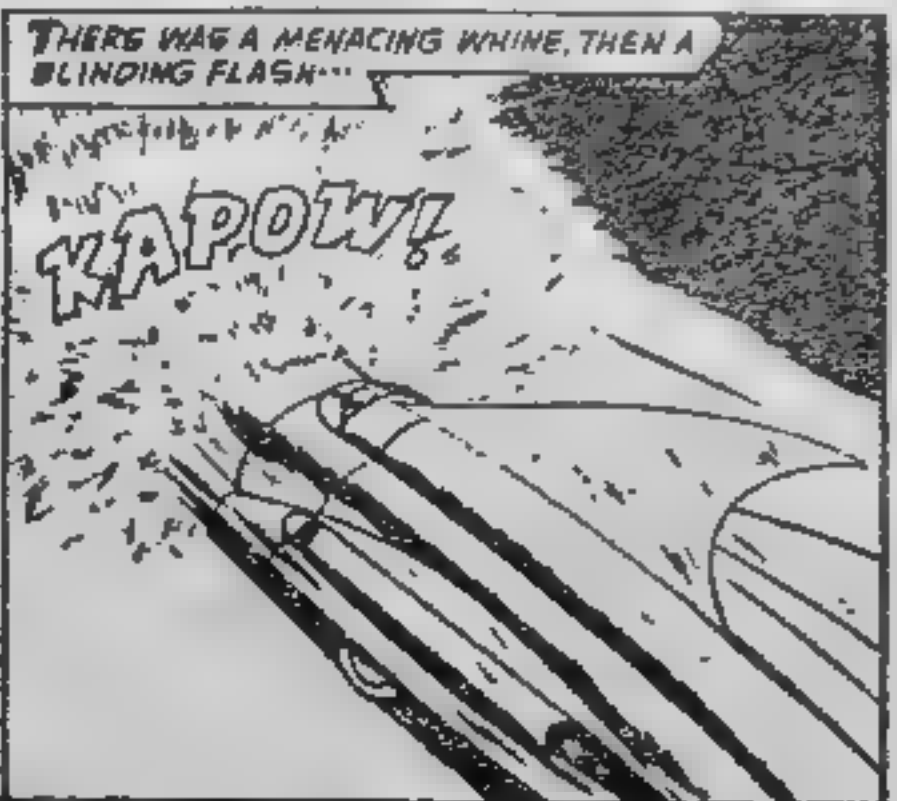
**HE HESITATED FOR A MOMENT, THEN THREW  
A PANEL SWITCH TO A POSITION MARKED X!**

NOW!  
THIS  
IS  
IT!

CLICK!



**THERE WAS A MENACING WHINE, THEN A  
BLINDING FLASH...**



**BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT, ALL  
SEEMED NORMAL AGAIN...**

FOR A MOMENT I HAD  
THE MOST PECULIAR FEEL-  
ING... AND THAT STRANGE  
LIGHT! NOW EVERYTHING  
SEEMS ALL RIGHT...  
BUT IS IT...?



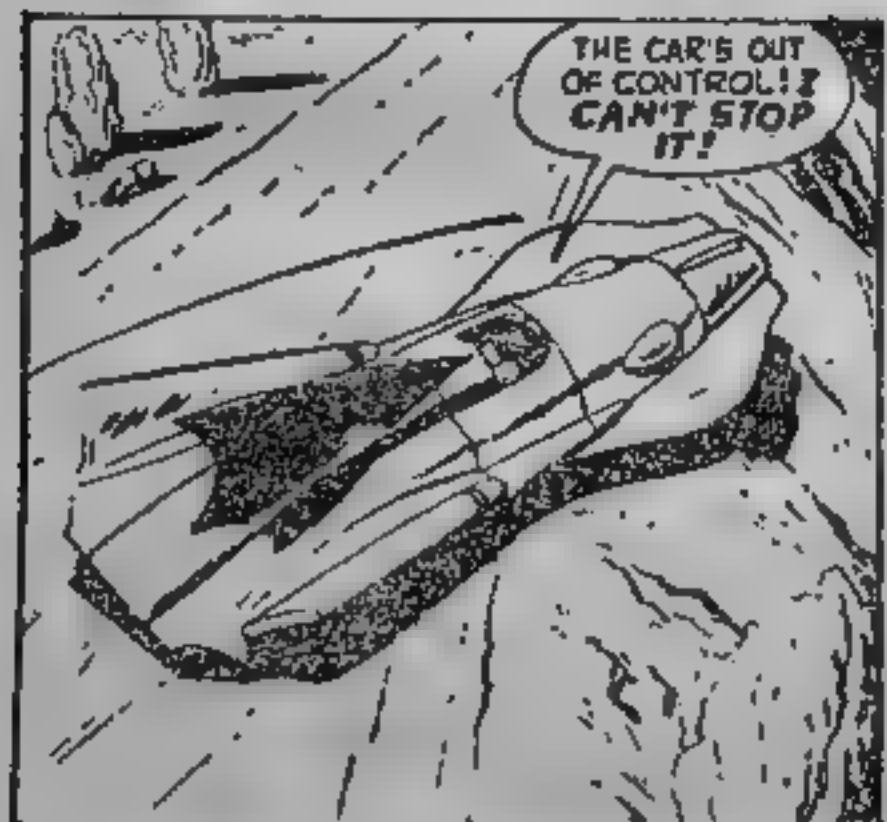
I'M NOT SURE, BUT THE  
HILLS IN THE DISTANCE DON'T  
LOOK QUITE THE SAME AS  
BEFORE--AND THERE'S A  
DIFFERENT FEEL TO THE  
ROAD, TOO! I'LL STOP AT  
THAT SIGN POST UP  
AHEAD AND GET  
MY BEARINGS!



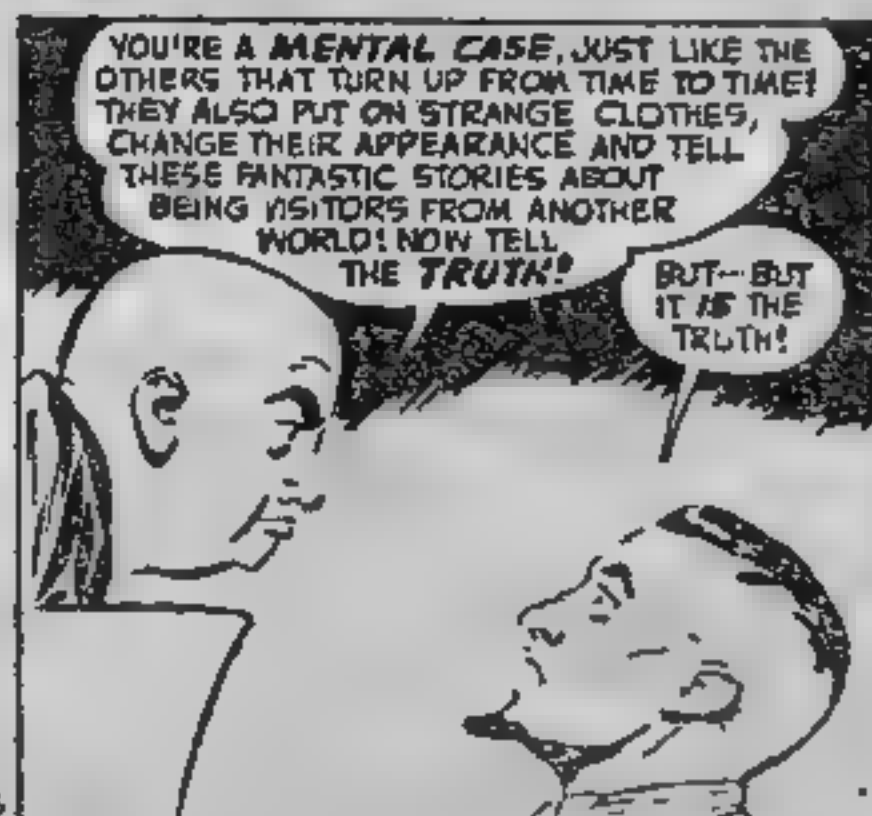
ORSHARK... 5 REGS?  
WHAT CAN IT MEAN?  
THAT'S NOT THE NAME  
OF ANY TOWN... AND  
WHAT ARE REGS?



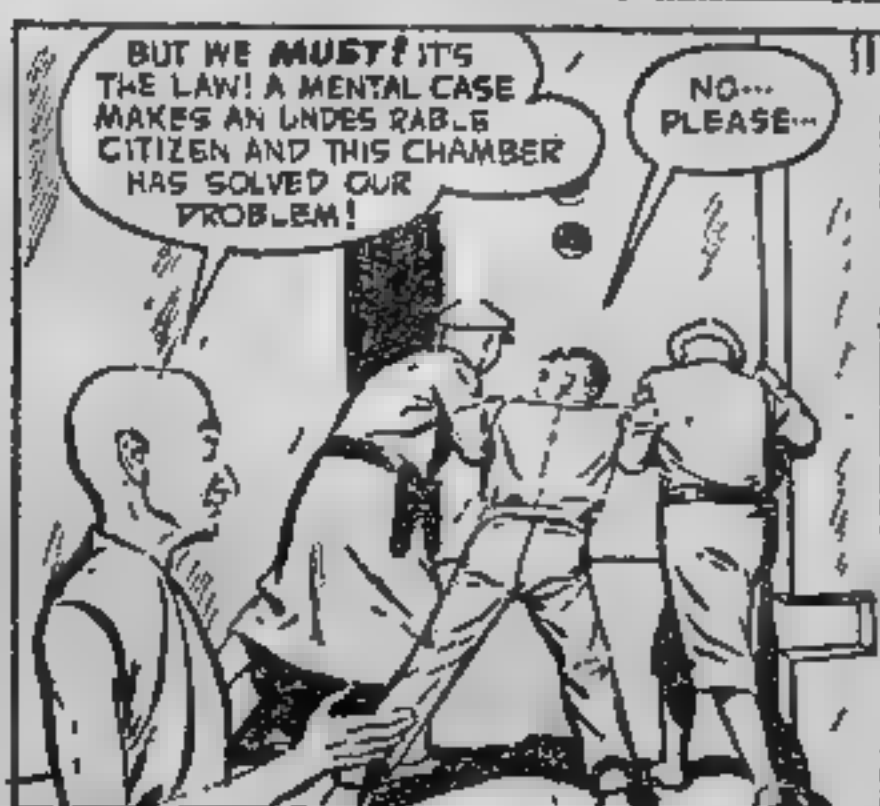


















WAS IT COINCIDENCE...OR THE LONG ARM OF THE UNKNOWN? SEE FOR YOURSELF IN THE STRANGE, FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE OF WILL EMMONS, WHO DISCOVERED, AMID DEADLY PERIL, THAT

# GRANDMA <sup>was</sup> RIGHT!



HE WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN OUR STORY OPENS...

PACKAGE FOR YOU, WILL...IT'S FROM THE MAIL ORDER HOUSE!

WHE-EEE!  
IT'S THE FIREWORKS I ORDERED FOR THE 4TH OF JULY!

ROCKETS...ROMAN CANDLES...PINWHEELS...FLARES... IT'S GONNA BE THE GREATEST 4TH IN MY WHOLE LIFE! GOSH, THE OTHER KIDS'LL ENVY ME!

JUST WAIT TILL THEY SEE YOUR WONDERFUL FIREWORKS...THEY'RE BOUND TO, BECAUSE THEY RUN IN AND OUT ALL DAY! THEY'LL SURE BE IMPRESSED!

THEY...THEY MIGHT BE TOO IMPRESSED, GRANDMA! JUST SUPPOSE SOMEBODY SHOULD TAKE THEM!



THE IDEA WAS TOO, TOO AWFUL! BUT THEN WILL HIT ON THE SOLUTION---

I'VE GOT IT! I WON'T EVEN TELL THE KIDS ABOUT MY FIREWORKS. I'LL SAVE THEM FOR A SURPRISE! AND MEANWHILE... I'LL HIDE THEM SO NOBODY WILL EVER BE ABLE TO FIND THEM!

AND SO WILL HIDE THE PACKAGE... HIDE IT SECURELY! HE WAS UP BRIGHT AND EARLY ON THE MORNING OF THE FOURTH... ALL EAGERNESS...

THEY THINK THEY'VE GOT FIREWORKS! WAIT'LL THEY SEE MINE!

BAM!  
CR-RUMP!

BUT THEN AN AWFUL REALIZATION HIT HOME... HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHERE HE HAD HIDDEN THEM! HE LOOKED HIGH AND LOW, IN A FRENZY--

I... I CAN'T FIND THE STUFF ANYWHERE!

GRANDMA TRIED HER BEST TO COMFORT HIM---

ALL THOSE W-WONDERFUL ROCKETS... AND... AND ROMAN CANDLES... AND FLARES AND PINWHEELS... G-GONE.

THERE, THERE--DON'T TAKE ON, CHILD! IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE!

HE NEVER FORGOT WHAT SHE SAID THEN---

KNOW WHAT? I THINK IT WAS LOST FOR A REASON... AND SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST, IT'S GOING TO TURN UP AGAIN! YOU'LL SEE!

HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT... NOT FOR A SECOND! AND THE YEARS PASSED... AND THE WELL-HIDDEN FIREWORKS WERE NEVER FOUND! HE GREW UP... GOT MARRIED...

...AND I HEREBY PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

THEY LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE THAT HE'D OCCUPIED AS A BOY... GRANDMA WAS NOW LONG DEAD, OF COURSE---

YOU KNOW, POLLY, I SOMETIMES WONDER IF MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE RATHER HAD ONE OF THOSE NEW SHINY HOUSES, FULL OF MODERN CONVENIENCES---

NOT A CHANCE! I LOVE THIS OLD PLACE! IT'S SO SAFE, SO SECURE!

SAFE, SECURE... UP TO NOW! FOR DAYS OF TORRENTIAL RAIN SUDDENLY SET IN... AND KEPT ON, ON...

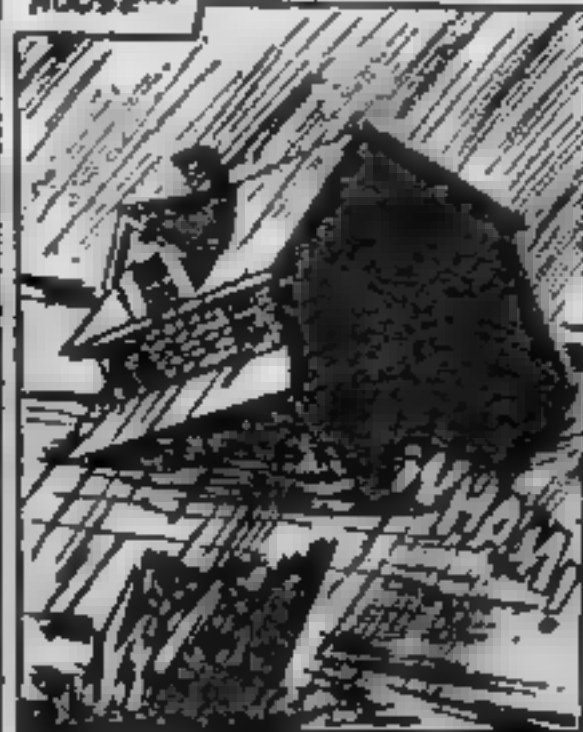




THE WEAKENED DAM HELD  
MIRACULOUSLY--BUT FINALLY--



THE TORRENT SWEEPED EVERYTHING  
BEFORE IT--INCLUDING WILL'S  
HOUSE--



OH-HNN!



AND LATER--WHEN A RESCUE LAUNCH PASSED--



LEFT ALONE, THE HOUSE WHIRLED ONWARD  
TOWARDS EXTINCTION! FINALLY--





GOOD...HEAVENS!  
WE'VE BEEN FLOODED  
OUT - THE HOUSE IS FLOAT-  
ING DOWN THE  
CHANNEL OF THE  
CREEK!



POLLY -- SHE'S  
COMING TO,  
THANK GOSH!



WE'RE IN  
TROUBLE,  
POLLY --  
BAD  
TROUBLE!

YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO TELL ME THERE'S  
NOBODY AROUND TO  
RESCUE US - AND  
WE'RE HEADED  
STRAIGHT  
FOR WOLF  
RIVER!

NIGHT CAME ON AND BROUGHT MOMENTARY HOPE  
...FOR THEY SIGHTED A CRUISING MOTORBOAT...



WE'VE GOT TO ATTRACT THEIR  
ATTENTION! LET'S YELL...  
AS LOUD AS WE CAN!



HEY...ABOARD  
THE MOTORBOAT!  
THIS WAY! HELP!  
HELP!

OH, WILL... IT'S NO USE!  
THEY CAN'T HEAR US  
ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE  
WATER! THERE'S NO WAY  
WE CAN SAVE  
OURSELVES!

BITTERLY THEY LEFT THE WINDOW, AND RELAXED  
TO WAIT FOR THE END! BUT...



NOTHING TO DO  
...BUT WAIT FOR  
OUR FINISH...

I WOULD PICK A  
SPOT IN THE WALL THAT  
WAS BUSTED OPEN WHEN  
THE HOUSE WAS SWEEP  
OFF ITS FOUNDATIONS!  
EAY...THERE'S SOME-  
THING IN HERE!

HE GROPED WITHIN...AND OUT OF THE WALL,  
HE TOOK...



HOLY...N...SMOKE! IT'S  
THE BOX OF FIREWORKS I HID  
AND LOST AS A KID...AFTER  
ALL THESE  
YEARS!



WHEN POLLY HAD HEARD THE HALF-FORGOTTEN STORY---

WILL---DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS? YOU CAN SET THOSE FIREWORKS OFF--AS A SIGNAL TO SUMMON HELP!

IT'S NO GO, POLLY-- THERE ISN'T A CHANCE THAT THEY'D GO OFF AFTER GATHERING MOLD FOR SUCH A PERIOD! BUT -- I'LL TRY!

LOOK AT THAT OLD WRECK! SHE'LL BE RUNNING SQUARE INTO WOLF RIVER WITHIN A FEW MINUTES AND THAT'LL BE THE END OF HER! --THINK WE OUGHT TO GIVE HER A CHECK FIRST?

WHAT FOR? EVERY HOUSE AROUND HERE HAS BEEN SCOUTED BY RESCUE SQUADRONS! IF THERE'D BEEN ANYONE IN THAT ONE, THEY'D HAVE BEEN TAKEN OFF LONG AGO! COMON-- LET'S CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

JUST THEN--



WHAT THE---AM I DREAMING?

NOT UNLESS YOU DREAM IN TECHNICOLOR! FULL SPEED AHEAD!



RESCUE WASN'T A MOMENT TOO SOON---

I---NEVER THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT!

HURRY--- BEFORE WE'RE IN THE WOLF RIVER!



NARROWLY THEY AVOIDED THE DANGEROUS WATERWAY--BUT THE OLD HOUSE WASN'T SO LUCKY---



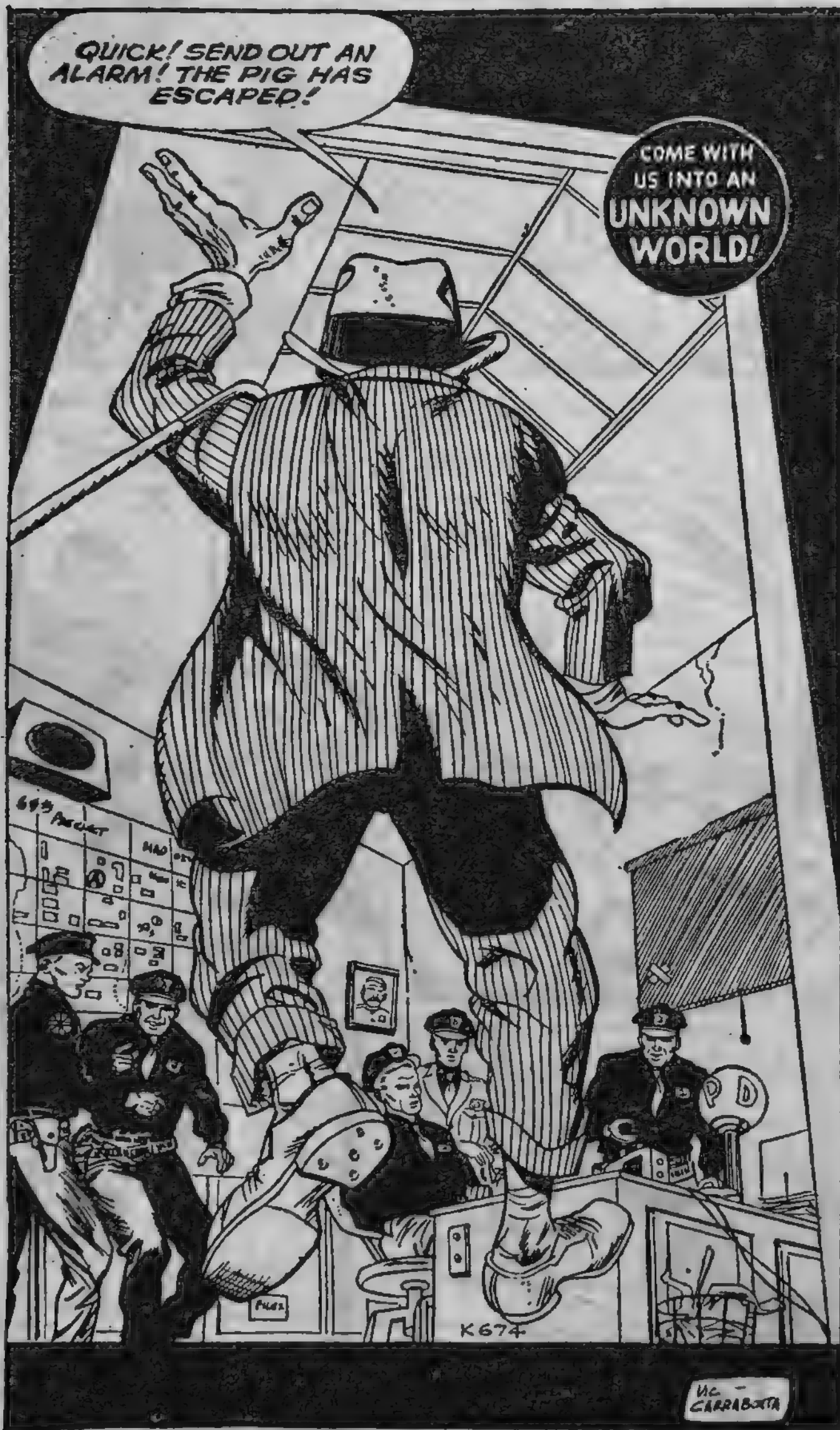
WHY AREN'T YOU TALKING WILL? INSTEAD, YOU'VE GOT THAT REMEMBERING LOOK IN YOUR FACE--

YES---I'M REMEMBERING WHAT AN OLD LADY TOLD ME SO MANY YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS A BAWLING KID WHO'D LOST HIS FIREWORKS! I THINK IT WAS LOST FOR A REASON! SHE SAID, "AND SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST, IT'S GOING TO TURN UP AGAIN!" NO DOUBT ABOUT IT---GRANDMA WAS RIGHT!



THIS IS THE STORY OF A MAN WHO INVENTED AN AMAZING SERUM...AND OF THE UNBELIEVABLE SERIES OF EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED...

# THE PIG THAT PROWLED!



'AT LAST, JUST YESTERDAY, MY SERUM WAS READY TO BE TESTED...'





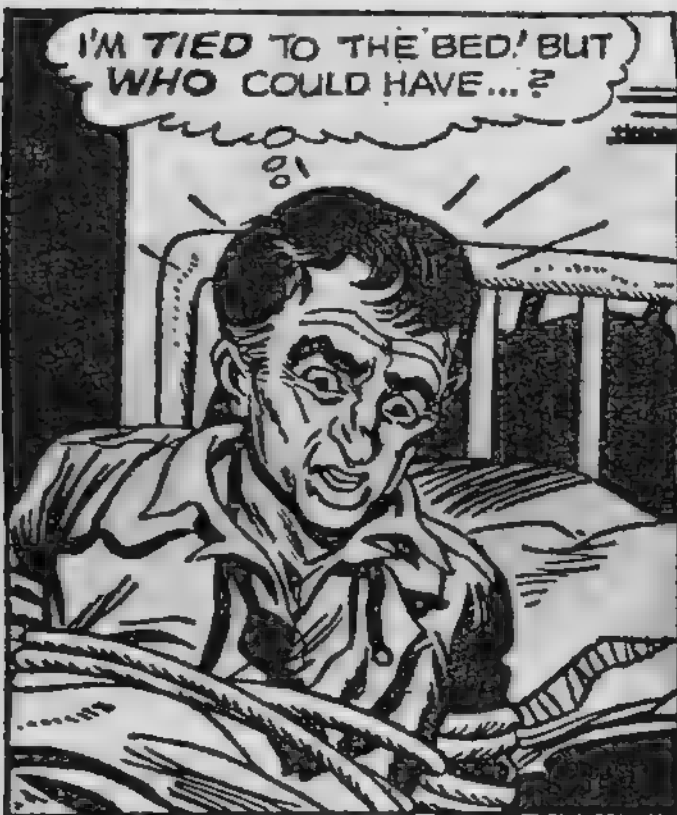
"BUT THERE WAS NO TIME FOR LEISURELY OBSERVATION! THE SERUM TOOK EFFECT AT AN UNBELIEVABLE RATE OF SPEED! IN A MATTER OF HOURS, ITS BRAIN POWER HAD EXCEEDED *MINE*..."



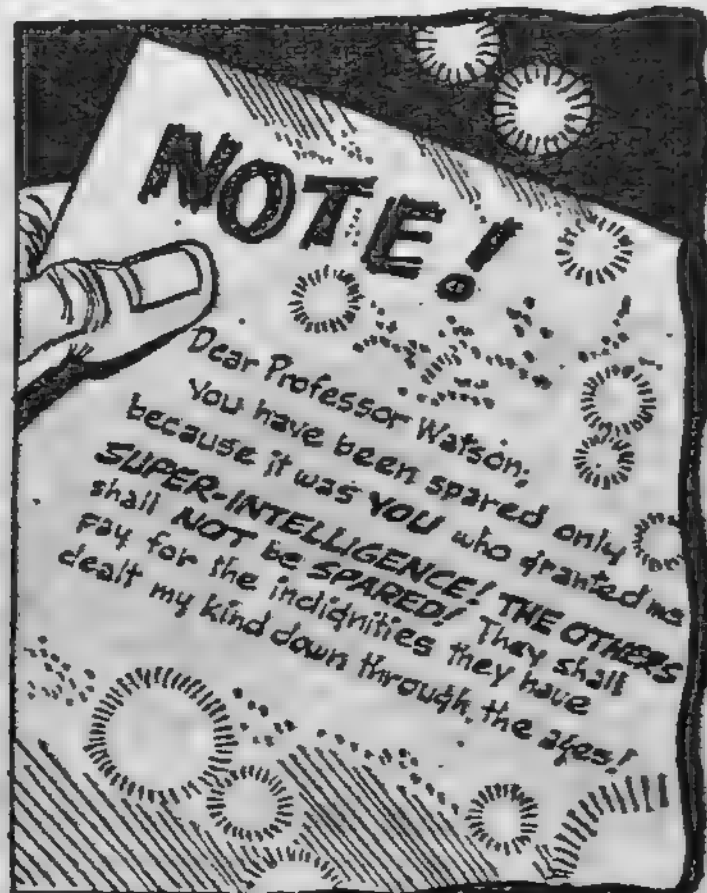
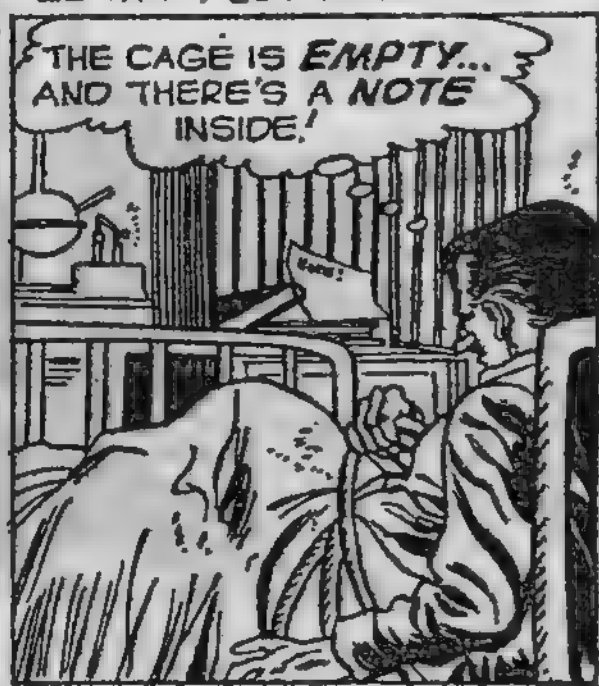
"I FINALLY STAGGERED TO BED, OPPRESSED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW DANGEROUS MY SERUM COULD BE..."



"WHEN I NEXT OPENED MY EYES..."

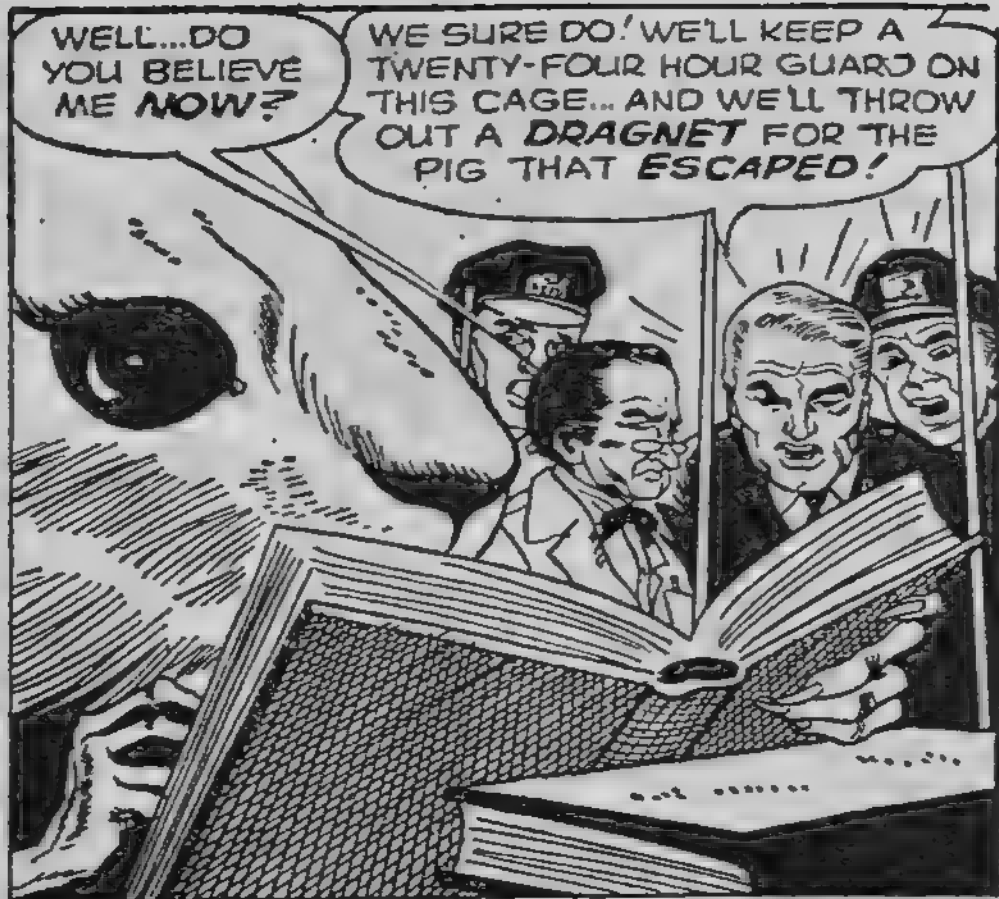


"ALL THE TIME I WAS WORKING AT THE KNOTS, I KEPT TRYING TO REASSURE MYSELF THAT WHAT I SUSPECTED JUST COULDN'T BE TRUE! BUT THEN I SAW..."





THANK YOU, SIR! I'LL BE GLAD TO **PROVE** MY STORY! COME WITH ME TO MY LAB... WATCH ME INJECT THE SERUM INTO **ANOTHER PIG!**



WELL...DO YOU BELIEVE ME **NOW?**

WE SURE DO! WE'LL KEEP A **TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GUARD** ON THIS CAGE... AND WE'LL THROW OUT A **DRAGNET** FOR THE PIG THAT **ESCAPED!**



NO WISECRACKS NOW! JUST TELL US IF YOU **SAW** A PIG AROUND HERE OR NOT!

PATROL CAR 19 REPORTING IN... NO SIGN OF THE PIG IN THIS SECTOR!

PATROL CAR 24... **NEGATIVE REPORT!**



NO LUCK YET, PROFESSOR!

HE'S **PROWLING** OUT THERE **SOMEWHERE!** HE'LL **STRIKE** BEFORE THE SERUM WEARS OFF! I **KNOW** HE WILL!



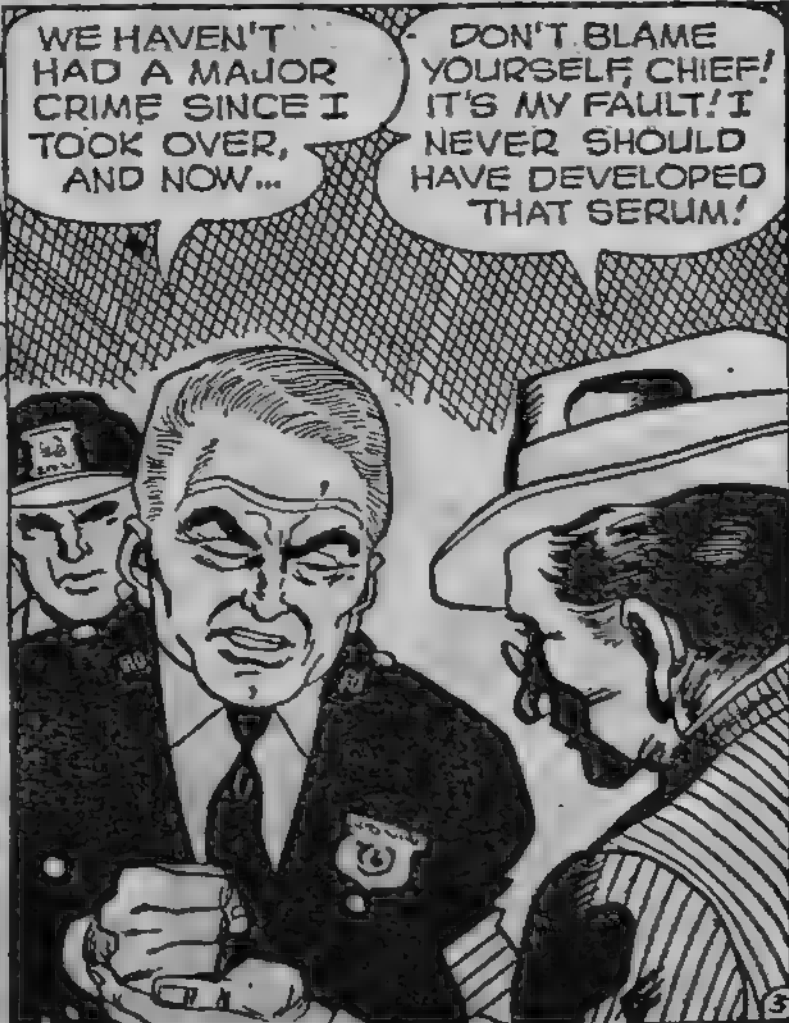
TWO CALLS JUST CAME THRU! **THIRD NATIONAL BANK** AND **ALLIED WAREHOUSE** WERE BOTH **CLEANED OUT** LAST NIGHT!

WHAT? ANY CLUES?



NO, CHIEF... NOT EVEN A **SHADOW** OF A CLUE!

YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT TO FIND ANY CLUES DO YOU, CHIEF... WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH A **SUPER-INTELLIGENCE?**



WE HAVEN'T HAD A **MAJOR CRIME** SINCE I TOOK OVER, AND NOW...

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, CHIEF! IT'S MY FAULT! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED THAT SERUM!



TWO DAYS LATER...

ANYTHING BREAK ON THOSE BANK AND WAREHOUSE JOBS YET?

NO... AND YOU'D BETTER STOP ASKING! THE CHIEF'S FIT TO BE TIED!

LATER, THAT SAME DAY...

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE **BRAIN HIMSELF!** HOW'S TRICKS, PROFESSOR?

COULDN'T BE BETTER, MY FRIEND!

THE POLICE HAVE **SWALLOWED** MY STORY! IF THEY ONLY KNEW THAT IT WASN'T A PIG I TESTED THE SERUM ON... BUT **MYSELF!** AND THE INCREASED BRAIN POWER GRANTED **ME**...

...ENABLED ME TO CONCOCT THIS SCHEME WHERE-BY **YOU** ROBBED THE BANK AND THE WAREHOUSE, AND THE POLICE KEEP RUNNING IN CIRCLES, CHASING AFTER A **NON-EXISTENT PIG!** WHAT A **SPLENDID JOKE!**

REACH FOR THE CEILING... **ALL OF YOU!**

H-HOW DID YOU **KNOW?** WHAT DID I DO **WRONG?**

YOU DID **NOTHING WRONG!** YOU JUST CAME UP AGAINST AN OLD SOLDIER WHO WAS WILLING TO DO **ANYTHING** TO KEEP THIS CITY **CLEAN... EVEN INJECT HIMSELF** WITH SOME OF THAT **SERUM** IN YOUR LAB!

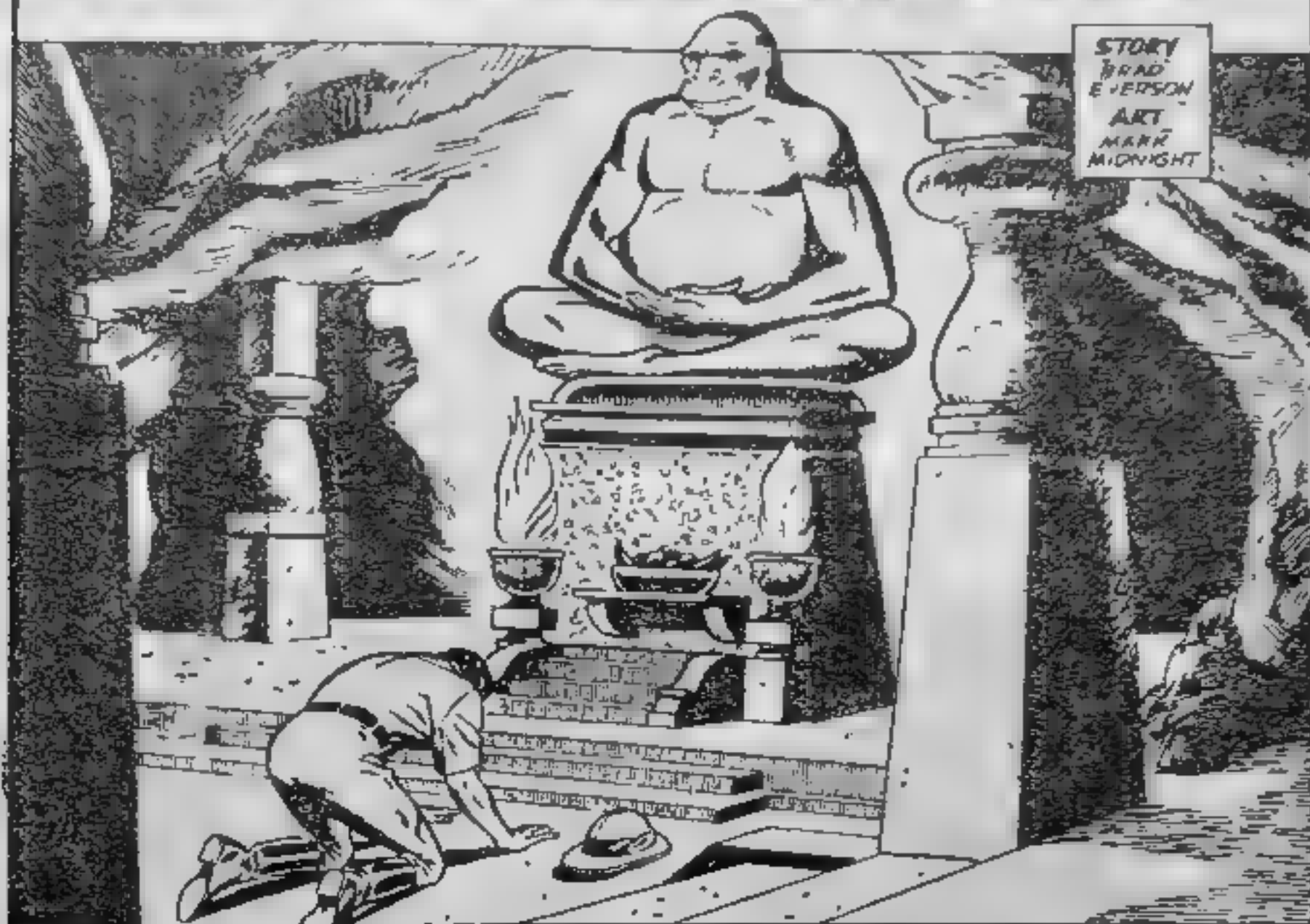
...AND THAT SERUM WORKED **FINE!** JUST ONE DROP OF IT UNDER MY SKIN, PROFESSOR... AND I WAS **SMART ENOUGH** TO SEE RIGHT THRU YOUR WHOLE **ROTTEN SCHEME!**

THE END

IT WAS JUST A PAGAN IDOL, LIKE TEN THOUSAND OTHER GOLDEN IMAGES WORSHIPPED IN THE REMOTE CORNERS OF THE EARTH! HOW COULD COLIN DREAM OF THE AWESOME, SPINE CHILLING POWERS OF...

# THE GOLDEN ONE!

STORY  
BRAD  
EVERSON  
ART  
MARK  
MIDNIGHT



EACH MORNING, THE CURATOR OF THE METROPOLITAN ZOO MAKES A TOUR OF INSPECTION...

THAT NEW MAN IN THE PRIMATE SECTION... HE SEEMS TO BE DOING VERY WELL, DOESN'T HE?

YOU MEAN COLIN? AH, YES... I NEVER SAW ANYONE GET ALONG SO WELL WITH MONKEYS!

YES, THE NEW MAN WAS A FIND! HE SEEMED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE CAGED BEASTS NEEDED. IT WAS AS IF HE COULD UNDERSTAND THEIR JABBERING TONGUE...

YES, LITTLE BROTHER... I HEAR AND OBEY!

GOOD HEAVENS! I COULD SWEAR HE'S TALKING TO THAT CHIMP!

OH, WELL! IT'S HARD TO FIND A GOOD KEEPER THESE DAYS AND I CAN'T BE CHOOSEY! STILL, I WONDER WHERE THE FELLOW LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MONKEYS!





YES, WHERE DID COLIN LEARN SO MUCH? THE STORY BEGAN YEARS AGO, IN INDIA. COLIN HAD BEEN A YOUNG MAN THEN... A GUN RUNNER AND SOLDIER OF FORTUNE...

THE RIFLES ARE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION COLIN SAHIB. AND HERE IS THE PRICE WE AGREED UPON... TWENTY THOUSAND ENGLISH POUNDS.

A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY FOR THE CONTROL OF KAFIRISTAN, ABDULLAH.

A SHREWD OPERATOR, COLIN WAS ADMIRER BY OTHERS OF HIS KIND...

A PITYFUL SUM, MY FRIEND NOW. IF YOU WERE TO CAST YOUR LOT WITH ME... ONCE KAFIRISTAN IS MINE, I WOULD MAKE YOU MY VIZIER!

THANK YOU ABDULLAH, BUT I LIVE TO PLAY A LONG HAND

SOME DAY I'LL HAVE A KINGDOM OF MY OWN... A LAND WHERE I ALONE WILL CONTROL ALL THE WEALTH AND POWER!

AND COLIN'S DAY OF OPPORTUNITY CAME HE FOUND IT EMBLAZONED ON A MAP OF THE BORDER COUNTRY...

IMURISTAN! I'VE CHECKED ALL THE ARCHIVES AND THAT PROVINCE IS UNCLAIMED BY ANY MAJOR COUNTRY!

A HUNDRED SQUARE MILES OF LUSH TROPICAL JUNGLE THAT NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT. IT'S MINE FOR THE TAKING!

COLIN HAD NO SCRUPLES. WITH A MOTLEY BAND OF RUFFIANS AND HIRED MERCENARIES, HE MARCHED INTO THE PROVINCE...

ALL RIGHT, MEN, DEAL WITH ANYONE WHO RESISTS!

BUT FORCE WAS UNNECESSARY BY THEIR CYDE THE PEOPLE OF MURGTAN GRUNNED VIOLENTLY THEY COULD ONLY BOW THEIR HEADS AND PLEAD WITH THE R GOD--

GREAT HANJMAN! SAVE US FROM THE INVADER!



COLIN'S GIBES AROUSED THE ANXIETY OF HIS FOLLOWERS -

IT IS NOT GOOD TO LAUGH AT STRANGE GODS. COLIN SAID IT COULD BRING MISFORTUNE UPON US!



BAH! IF THE R PAGAN IMAGE HAD ANY POWER HE WOULD HAVE SAVED THEM FROM INVASION!

ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO WORSHIP A MONKEY GOD DESERVES TO BE CONQUERED! USE THE FOOLS TO TRANSPORT OUR LOOT!



HUNGRY AND EXHAUSTED THE NATIVES STAGGERED BENEATH THEIR BURDENS. BUT NOW AND AGAIN, PITIFUL CAPTIVES LOOKED UPWARD INTO THE OVERHANGING JUNGLE---



HELP US, LITTLE BROTHERS!

HAVE PITY ON US AND TELL HANJMAN WHAT HAS BEFALLEN.

AND NOW THEY'RE ASKING THOSE JUNGLE APES TO HELP! NA, NA! THIS IS THE FUNNIEST YET!



THE SAH B SHOULD NOT MOCK THEM. HE LAUGHS AT POWERS HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND!

ANGERED BY THE SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR OF HIS FOLLOWERS, COLIN TURNED UPON THEM---

YOU'RE AS BAD AS THESE MONKEY WORSHIPPERS--I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR CRACK-BRAIN SUPERSTITIONS! TAKE YOUR SHARE OF THE LOOT AND HEAD BACK TO THE BORDER, IF YOU WANT TO.

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, THAT'S THE WAY YOU'LL GET IT. WE'LL SEE HOW YOU CAN HANDLE THESE PEOPLE BY YOURSELF!



MAD WITH THE LUST OF CONQUEST, COLIN WAS UNAFRAID---

LET THEM GO. I CAN RULE THESE SHEEP BY MYSELF!





RULE THEM HE DID, WITH AN IRON HAND. FOR TO THESE PRIMITIVE PEOPLE, HIS CONQUEST SEEMED DECREED BY FATE---

AS LONG AS THIS STRANGER COMMANDS US, MY BROTHER? **HANUMAN** WILL DO IT. ALL THE FUTURE LIES IN HIS HANDS!



BUT FOR COLIN, THIS TRIUMPH WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. HE HAD OTHER AND GREATER PLANS---

**IMURISTAN** WILL BE THE FIRST STONE IN THE EMPIRE I'M GOING TO BUILD! THESE PEOPLE WILL MAKE OBEDIENT SOLDIERS ONCE I WIN THEM AWAY FROM THE APE-GOD THEY WORSHIP AND TOUGHEN THEM UP!



BUT THOUGH THEY LABORED FOR COLIN FROM DAWN TO DUSK, EACH NIGHT THE NATIVES WOULD SLIP OFF INTO THE JUNGLE---

LOOK AT THEM GO--DOZENS OF THEM! I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO OUT THERE?

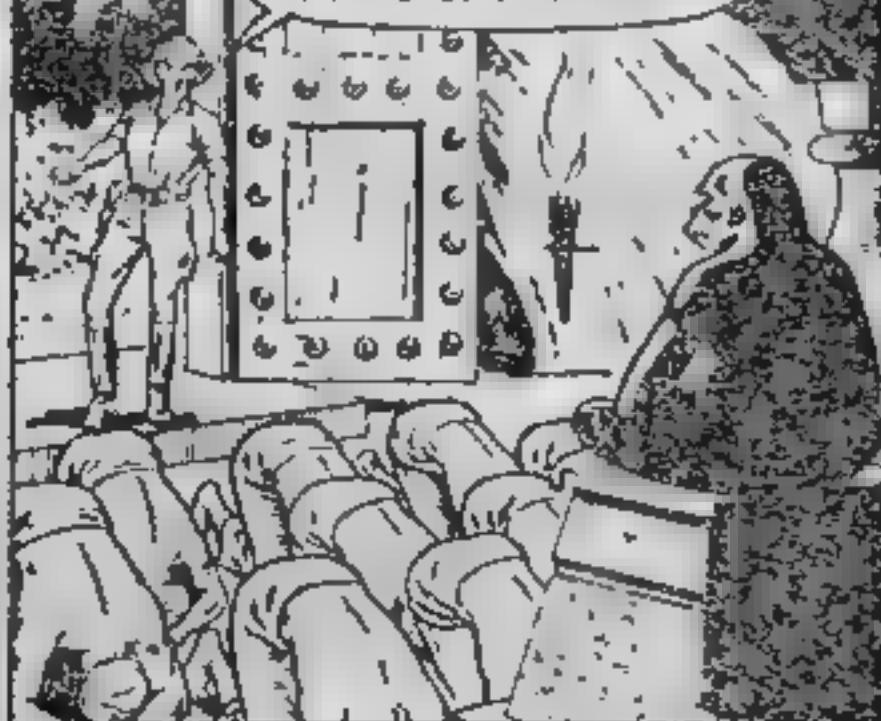


ONE NIGHT, HIS CURIOSITY AROUSED, COLIN FOLLOWED THEM, AND---

A TEMPLE--HIDDEN IN THE JUNGLE! THINK I'LL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK---



IT'S AN IDOL--A GOLDEN IMAGE OF **HANUMAN**!



THOUGH HE HAD AMASSED A FORTUNE IN LOOT, HIS GREED WAS INSATIABLE---

SO YOU'D HIDE THIS GOLDEN IMAGE FROM ME! WERE YOU NOT ORDERED TO TURN OVER EVERYTHING OF VALUE?

**HANUMAN!** HE DARES TO TOUCH THE GOLDEN ONE!



YES, I DARE! YOUR **HANUMAN** IS POWERLESS AGAINST ME! BY TOMORROW, HE'LL BE MELTED DOWN INTO BULLION FOR MY TREASURY!

NO, SAHIB! YOU MUST NOT LAY HANDS ON **HANUMAN**! YOU DARE NOT DEFILE HIM!



DRUNK WITH POWER, HE THRUST  
PAST THEM INTO THE DREADFUL  
DARKNESS OF THE JUNGLE NIGHT...

WE CANNOT ALLOW  
HIM TO STEAL THE  
**GOLDEN ONE!**  
WE MUST  
STOP HIM!

THERE IS  
ONE WAY



AN OLD TRICK OF JUNGLE  
MAGIC...THIS STAKE THROUGH  
THE SAHIB'S TRACKS...



AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT IN THE  
JUNGLE COLIN FELT AN EERIE POWER  
SEIZE HIS LIMBS...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! IT'S AS  
IF I WAS KNEE DEEP IN MUD...  
AND YET THE TRAIL IS BONE  
DRY!



THE MAGIC CANNOT FAIL! WITH  
EACH STEP, HIS PACE GROWS  
SLOWER...THE STRENGTH EBBS  
FROM HIS FEET!

IT IS NOT ENOUGH,  
HE MUST BE PUNISHED  
FOR POLLUTING THE  
TEMPLE. THE **GOLDEN  
ONE** MUST BE  
RETURNED!



LITTLE BROTHERS, CARRY OUR PRAYERS  
TO HANUMAN! LET HIM TAKE **VENGEANCE**  
ON THE  
INF DEL!



ABRUPTLY, AS IF BY SOME MYSTERIOUS SIGNAL, THE  
GIBBERING BAND SWUNG OFF THROUGH THE TREES...



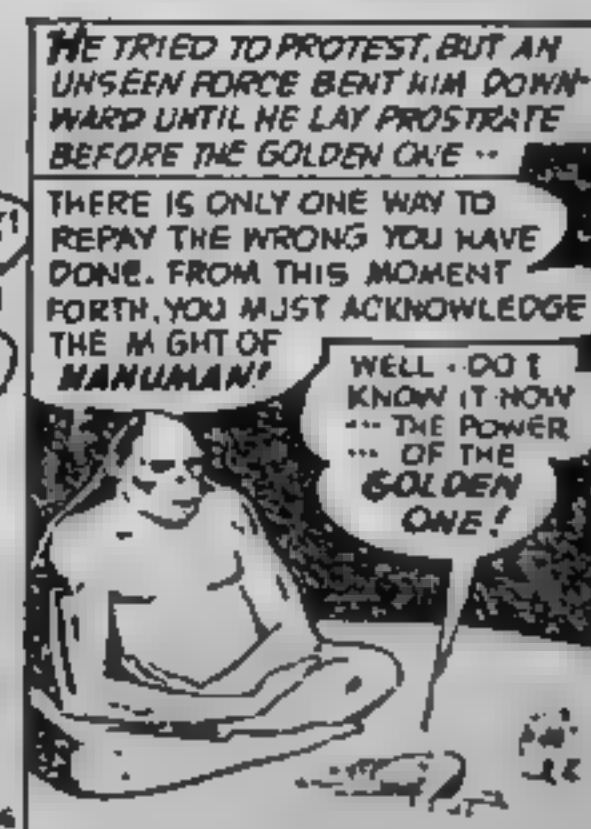
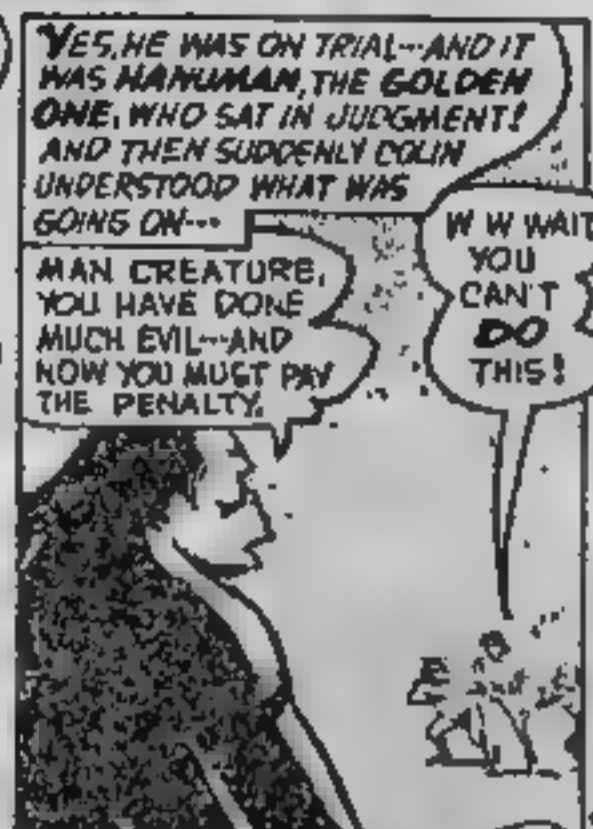
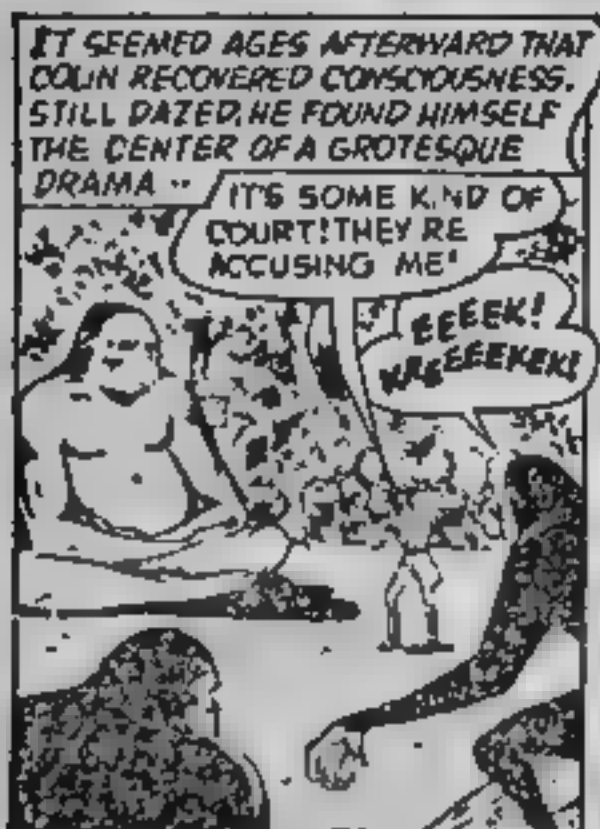
THEY GO! THEY WILL  
SPEAK FOR US TO HANUMAN  
...THE **GOLDEN ONE** WILL  
AVENGE US...

IT WAS SECONDS LATER THAT COLIN SAW THE  
FIRST FEW OF THEM...

MONKEYS! WHY  
ARE THEY FOLLOWING  
ME?







NEXT DAY THE NATIVES FOUND HIM -- THE BROKEN MUMBLING RUIN OF WHAT HAD BEEN A CRUEL, DOMINATING MAN --

IT IS COLIN SAHIB! LOOK HE BOWS LOW BEFORE HANUMAN!

MIGHTY IS THE GOLDEN ONE! BEHOLD WHAT HIS POWERS CAN DO, MY BROTHERS!

THEY TOOK UP THE IMAGE, NOW RESTORED TO ITS REAL SIZE AND RETURNED IT TO THE TEMPLE ON STUMBLING FEET COLIN FOLLOWED THE PROCESSION --

BEHOLD! HE FOLLOWS THE GOLDEN ONE!

IT IS AS IF HE HEARD SOME UNSPOKEN COMMAND!

IT IS A THING OF WONDER! HE WHO MOCKED AT THE GOLDEN ONE IS NOW HIS MOST DEVOUT WORSHIPPER!

IT IS THE WILL OF HANUMAN! LET COLIN SAHIB BE A SERVITOR IN THE TEMPLE!



IT WAS YEARS LATER THAT A GROUP OF TRAVELING CORRESPONDENTS FOUND COLIN. WHEN THE PEOPLE TRIED TO EXPLAIN --

YOU MEAN HE ACTUALLY WORSHIPS THAT PAGAN IDOL? I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

AND YET IT IS TRUE. COLIN SAHIB IS PLEDGED TO SERVE HANUMAN FOREVER!

THE POOR FELLOW! HIS BRAIN MUST HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE HEAT OF THIS TROPICAL JUNGLE BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE -- WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM WITH US!

I'M SURE HE'LL BE STRAIGHTENED OUT ONCE WE GET HIM BACK TO CIVILIZATION



IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE COLIN SAHIB WAS RETURNED TO THE STATES. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, NO PSYCHIATRIST HAS BEEN ABLE TO CURE HIM OF HIS STRANGE OBSESSION --

BUT MY DEAR SIR, A CIVILIZED MAN WORSHIPPING A MONKEY! IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

I TELL YOU, I'M PLEDGED TO HANUMAN. I MUST SERVE HIM FOREVER!

SO NOW YOU SEE, READER THAT THE NEW KEEPER AT THE METROPOLITAN ZOO ISN'T CRAZY AT ALL. HE REALLY DOES UNDERSTAND THE JABBERING TONGUE OF THE APES!

MORE GRAPEST? YES, LITTLE BROTHER I HEAR AND OBEY!

UUK-UUK KEKEKEK!





# "LOST DOG"

"I didn't go swimming in the new Hotel Shelton pool yesterday," said Detective Al Norton to his buddy, Detective Ben Egan. "All week long I looked forward to taking a dip in that new pool. Then what happened? Inspector Kennedy called me. Asked me to attend a session of the Anti-Crime Commission. They were discussing the idea of State Senator John Higgins. He suggested that every maker of a pistol or revolver should be required by law to fire a bullet from each gun made and send it to a central place where it could be kept on file. In this way, it was explained, when the police recovered a bullet at the scene of a crime, they could send it to this central clearing house. Here it could be compared with the bullets on file until one was located that matched it. This would reveal to the police the make and serial number of the gun that fired the crime bullet. Then the gun could be traced to its owner from the sales cards. We have fingerprinting of people down to a science. This would be a sort of fingerprinting of weapons. Of course there are a lot of problems that have to be ironed out before such a plan can be set-up. Who finances it? Who controls the program? What kind of laws would have to be passed to make it mandatory for the gun manufacturer to fire and file a test bullet from each gun? How would you index the different types of bullets? They had some famous gun experts down at this hearing. I certainly learned a lot."

"Anytime you admit you learned something," interrupted Ben Egan, "I am interested. Once I thought you knew a lot about everything. And I still do, funny as it may seem. Some states have very strict laws regulating the possession of a pistol."

The phone rang and Detective Norton answered it. No need to continue on the topic of guns.

"Chief Edward Mirkus wants us in his office at once. Says there is a young lady who has a very important problem for us to handle. It gets A-1 priority. We are to drop everything and concentrate on this case. Come on! We can't keep the chief or this young lady waiting."

The police chief was proud of the two members of his Special Squad. They could handle anything from ordinary routine matters to the toughest assignment. The door to his office was open and they walked in. A little girl of

about nine years of age was seated on a chair. Her brown hair was done up in curls. She had two big friendly dark eyes. She was dressed in a freshly ironed pink dress.

"Miss June Wilson," introduced the chief, "I want you to meet two of the best detectives on my force. The one on the right is Mr. Al Norton. The one on the left is Mr. Ben Egan. Tell them your story and they will help you."

"My terrier is missing," began the little girl. "I went walking in Highland Park with him this morning. I was tired so I sat down on a bench. Every morning in the summer I take Snickie out for a walk. I saw some pigeons. Maybe it was only two minutes while I watched the pigeons. Then when I looked I couldn't find Snickie. So I took a Central Avenue bus and came right here. I know the police are our friends, please help me find him, he is a hero."

"Your orders are to find Snickie," said the police chief. "I called up the home of this young lady and informed her mother she was here. Her father is Dr. Theodore Wilson. Lives at 453 Myrtle Avenue. If our little miss is hungry, suppose you two gentlemen take her out for something to eat. Then take her home and see if her mother can supply you with any clues about the dog. Patrolmen Dave Schultz, Frank Corrigan, and Henry Simpson have beats in the park. Contact them if necessary."

Mrs. Wilson was most apologetic as she faced the two detectives in her living room.

"I don't think June should have bothered you about her dog. I know you have a lot of serious situations to take care of without having this trivial thing."

"What is so trivial about it?" reproached Detective Al Norton. "When I lost my dog I was so heartbroken I refused to eat for a whole day. June mentioned something about the dog being a hero. What happened?"

"Two months ago," explained Mrs. Wilson, "the terrier barked so excitedly at 3 A.M. that my husband got up to take a look. Snickie led him to the basement. When he opened the furnace room door, he found the place ablaze and filled with smoke. We immediately left the house and my husband called the fire department. Fortunately the damage was only confined to the basement. We feel we all owe our lives to Snickie."

"I think we should start now and look for the dog," declared Al Norton. "Time is valuable. We will go first to the park area."

"June should have something to eat before you go," said Mrs. Wilson. "And I wish you two gentlemen would stay for lunch."

"The nice men fed me," volunteered young June. "I'm not hungry any more. I had a big piece of strawberry shortcake. And a glass of milk. Then they wanted to know if I liked ice cream. So they gave me a portion of vanilla ice cream. I thanked them, mommy."

Patrolman Dave Schultz was on his beat which consisted of the south side of the Park. He listened attentively to the story. Then he shook his head in the negative.

"Didn't see a terrier at all today. Saw a nice big boxer. But you can all go over to the park office. They have a lost and found department there. Maybe they know something about the dog."

Mike Bartel was most sympathetic about the situation but he had no lost dog returned.

"I had a cat brought here by a kid an hour ago. A woman claimed her. People are rather honest in this park. If I were a lost dog, what would I do? Go right home to where I lived and wait there."

"Thanks for that bit of dog psychology," smiled Ben Egan. "We waited for the dog. Didn't show up. So we will have to continue our looking."

Patrolman Frank Corrigan had a clue to offer and now there was some hope.

"I saw a middle-age woman with a terrier. She was holding the dog in her arm. I have seen her before, but I don't know who she is. She buys a newspaper in the candy store across the street. Maybe they know her identity."

Mr. Hyman Rosenkrantz, the owner of the small candy store knew the lady.

"She is Mrs. Rose Blanchard. A widow she is for at least ten years. Sometimes she buys her papers here. Sometimes I deliver them to her. She lives at 561 Howard Street. In that big apartment house. All by herself. Apartment 3A."

Mrs. Blanchard was a cautious woman. She opened the peep hole and made each detective

show his badge and identification card. Then she permitted them to enter.

"I did find a dog in the park," she admitted. "A little terrier. You say the dog belongs to this girl. If she can prove ownership, then I shall turn the dog over to her. Otherwise you must take it and if no owner turns up I shall claim it. I always wanted a dog."

The dog was in the bedroom and June rushed over to her terrier.

"Snickie, Snickie," she shouted with glee. "Come here!"

The dog obeyed her but the woman wasn't satisfied.

"I think any dog would run over to a friendly child. Show me more proof."

"Can you make the dog do any tricks?" asked Ben Egan.

"Watch me," replied June. "Snickie, roll over."

The dog obeyed. The next order was to lift a paw. This too the dog did.

"The dog belongs to her," conceded Mrs. Blanchard. "I have some ice cream in my refrigerator for the little girl."

"If it's vanilla or strawberry, I'll eat it," replied June.

Two days later, Chief Mirkus had the two detectives in his office. He showed them form 6C which they had filled out on the recovery of Snickie.

"You left out an important detail," he scolded them. "First time you boys ever slipped up."

"What did we leave out?" demanded Detective Ben Egan.

"The fact that you two chipped in and bought a terrier at the Allen Dog Store for Mrs. Blanchard. She called up and thanked me. Said anytime the P.B.A. needs something to let her know. She happens to be worth a couple of million dollars. She's the widow of Blanchard the banker. Just likes to live alone. But no more. She has a terrier. And what does she call him? "Detective!"

THE END



ARE YOU IN THE HABIT OF PICKING THINGS UP IN THE STREET THAT LOOK INTERESTING? WELL, MAYBE YOU'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT IT, AFTER YOU READ WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE CURIOUS FOLKS!

# A BOX IS A BOX!

MY NAME IS ROGER LANGDON... I'M A PHYSICIST AND BEFORE THE SITUATION OF THE BOX, I WAS A RESPECTED SCIENTIST WORKING FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT! NOW I'M NOTHING MORE THAN A STARVING BUM, AND NO LABORATORY WILL HIRE ME! IT'S NOT REALLY MY FAULT! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT BOX!



I WAS JUST COMING BACK FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR ON SOME PROBLEMS OF LABORATORY BUILDINGS... IT WAS A COOL CRISP DAY AND I TOOK A SHORTCUT ACROSS THE LAWN TOWARD MY CAR...



THAT WAS HOW THE BOX CAME INTO MY POSSESSION! I SAW IT THERE AND I PICKED IT UP! BUT WHEN I SAW WHAT WAS INSCRIBED ON IT, I KNEW I HAD MADE A FIND OF TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE...





FOR A MOMENT I WAS TOO ASTOINDED TO THINK... BUT THEN I SHOVED THE BOX INTO MY COAT POCKET! WHEN I GOT BACK TO THE LABORATORY, I SHOWED IT TO SOME OF THE OTHERS...

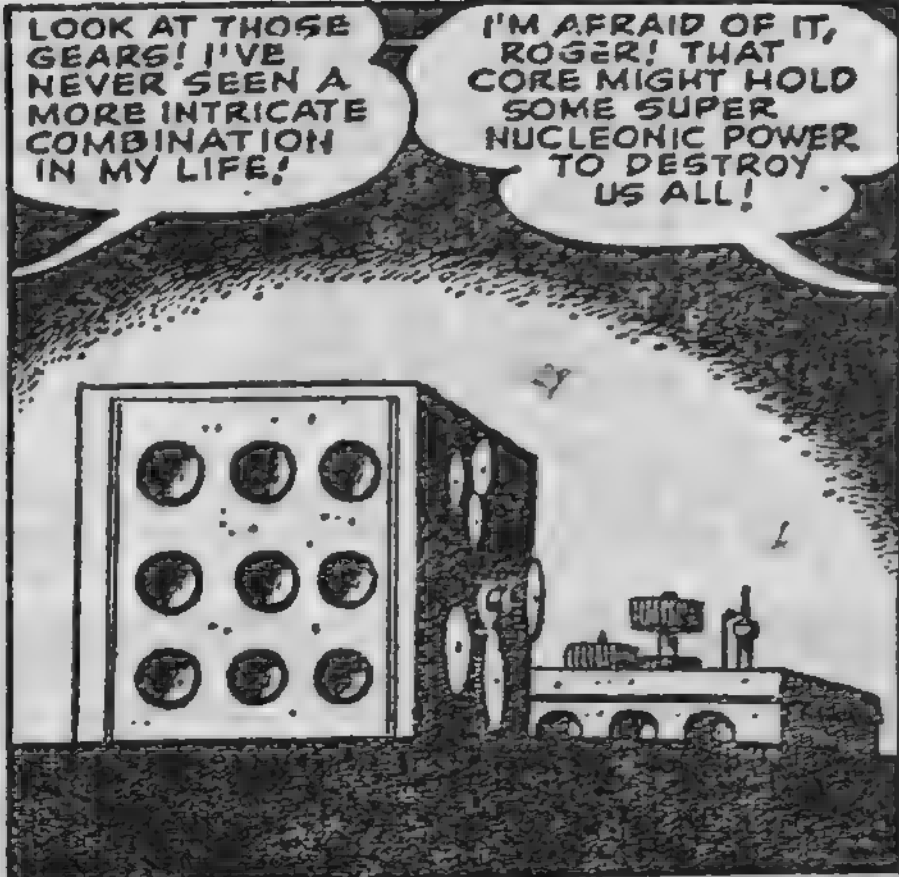


THIS METAL IS LIKE NOTHING EVER SEEN ON EARTH! I'M AFRAID TO IMAGINE WHAT THIS IS!

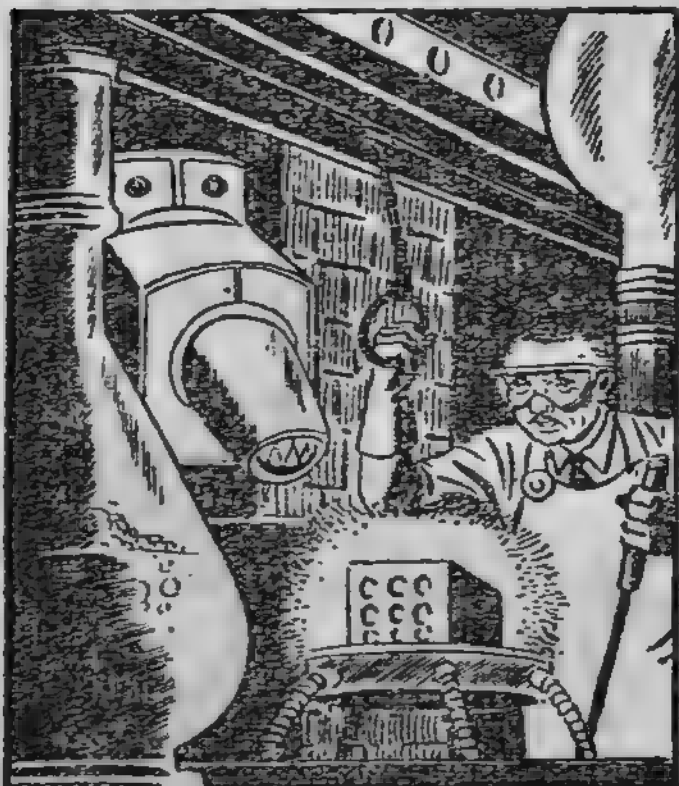
MAYBE IT'S A BOMB FROM SOME OTHER TIME THAT GOT LOST SOMEHOW!

LOOK AT THOSE GEARS! I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE INTRICATE COMBINATION IN MY LIFE!

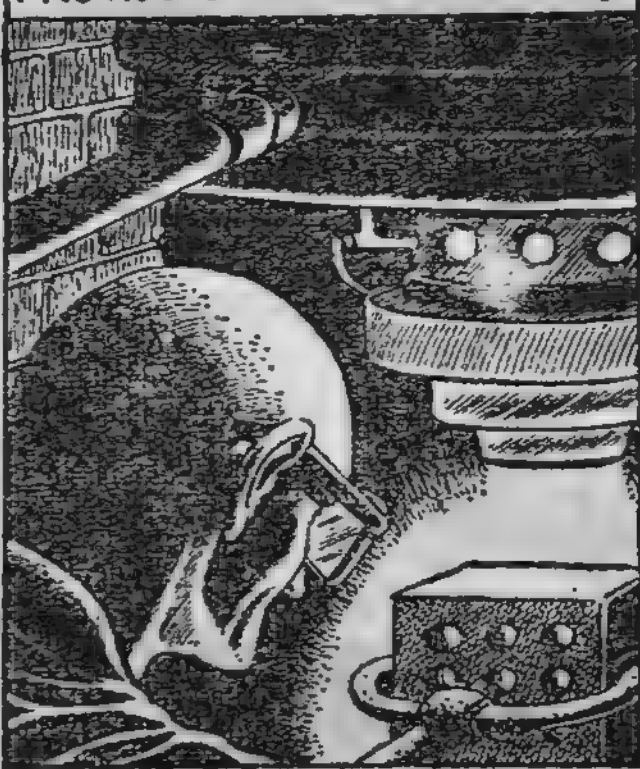
I'M AFRAID OF IT, ROGER! THAT CORE MIGHT HOLD SOME SUPER NUCLEONIC POWER TO DESTROY US ALL!



WE ALL HAD THAT FEAR DEEP IN OUR HEARTS, BUT THAT COULDN'T KEEP US FROM EXPERIMENTING ON MY LITTLE BOX...



THERE WAS THE CHANCE IT MIGHT HOLD SOME OF THE ANSWERS THAT SCIENCE IS ALWAYS SEEKING! IT MIGHT PROVIDE SOME NEW POWER!



BUT THE LITTLE BOX WITHSTOOD ANY ATTEMPTS TO PROBE ITS INNER SECRETS! WE STILL HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS OR WHAT IT COULD DO!



THEN ONE DAY WHEN ALL OF US HAD DESPAIRED OF EVER DISCOVERING ITS SECRET, SOMETHING HAPPENED! CHAMBERS BROUGHT THE NEWS...



LISTEN! THIS IS THE GREATEST THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO US! THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN US TOP PRIORITY!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT MEANS THAT ROGER GETS A MILLION BUCKS FOR RESEARCH... AND THE ARMY AND NAVY SETS UP WATCHDOGS OUT FRONT TO GUARD US!

THEY MUST THINK THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT IN THAT LITTLE BOX!





WE WERE IMMEDIATELY PUT UNDER MILITARY PROTECTION AND NOBODY COULD GET IN OR OUT OF THE LAB WITHOUT SHOWING A SPECIAL PASS...THE NEWSPAPERS WERE SCREAMING FOR A STORY...

DR. LANGDON... IS IT TRUE THAT THIS MIGHT HOLD THE SECRET TO HUMAN LIFE?

OR IS IT UNDER ROBOT CONTROL FROM A DISTANCE?

MY READERS WANT TO KNOW IF THIS IS A NEW BOMB, GREATER THAN THE HYDROGEN BOMB?

IS THE BOX A NEW SUPERJET FUEL? GIVE US THE STORY!

I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING! THIS PROJECT IS TOP SECRET!

GOOD HEAVENS, ROGER... YOU LOOK PALE! WHAT'S WRONG?

THAT BOX... IT BOTHERS ME! WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY FURTHER ALONG THAN THE DAY I FIRST FOUND IT! WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!

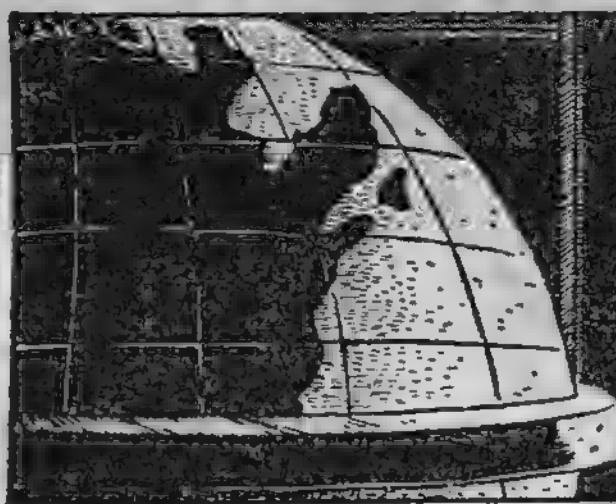


WELL, DON'T WORRY... WE'LL CRACK IT SOONER OR LATER!

I'M AFRAID WHEN WE DO FIND OUT, IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING WE CAN'T CONTROL!



BUT THE MILITARY WEREN'T AS PATIENT AS THE SCIENTISTS! THEY CALLED MEETING AFTER MEETING, AND DID EVERYTHING BUT ACCUSE US OF SABOTAGE...



DR. LANGDON, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG IF WITH A MILLION DOLLARS AT YOUR CONTROL, YOU CAN'T FIND OUT WHAT THAT BOX IS!



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT ISN'T A MATTER OF MONEY! THE BOX DEFIES ALL ATTEMPTS TO ANALYZE IT! WE NEED TIME!

THERE IS NO TIME! FOR ALL WE KNOW OUR ENEMIES MAY HAVE FOUND A SIMILAR BOX... AND THEY MAY KNOW WHAT IT IS!



AT THAT POINT THE DOOR BURST OPEN! THE ARMED GUARD DASHED IN WITH A WILD, FEVERISH LOOK IN HIS EYES...

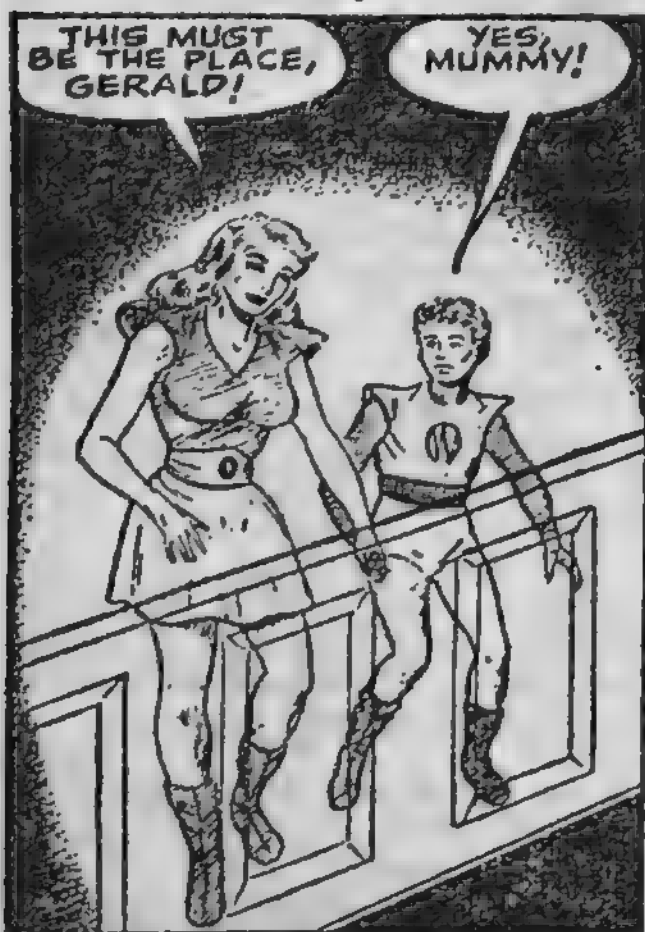
GUARD, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS INTRUSION?

WHERE ARE THEY? DID THEY COME IN HERE? THEY WERE OUTSIDE, AND WHEN I TRIED TO STOP THEM, THEY DISAPPEARED!





WE WERE STUNNED INTO SPEECHLESSNESS, AS THERE, BEFORE OUR EYES WE SAW A WOMAN AND CHILD...OBVIOUSLY FROM ANOTHER TIME...WALK RIGHT THROUGH OUR WALL!



BUT THERE WAS NO TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS, FOR SUDDENLY, RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES...**THEY DISAPPEARED**...THE WOMAN, THE BOY, AND THE LITTLE SILVER BOX!



THEY VANISHED AND NEVER AGAIN WERE ANY OF THEM SEEN! THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS I HAD SPENT ON RESEARCH WORK AND EQUIPMENT WERE LOST FOREVER...AND I HAD A STRANGE FEELING...



AND THEN I COULD TELL BY THE RED FACES AROUND ME, THE FURIOUS GLARES OF ALL THOSE WHO WORKED WITH ME, THAT THEY HEARD THE WORDS THE LITTLE BOY SHOUTED GLEEFULLY WITH CHILDISH LAUGHTER AS HE DISAPPEARED...



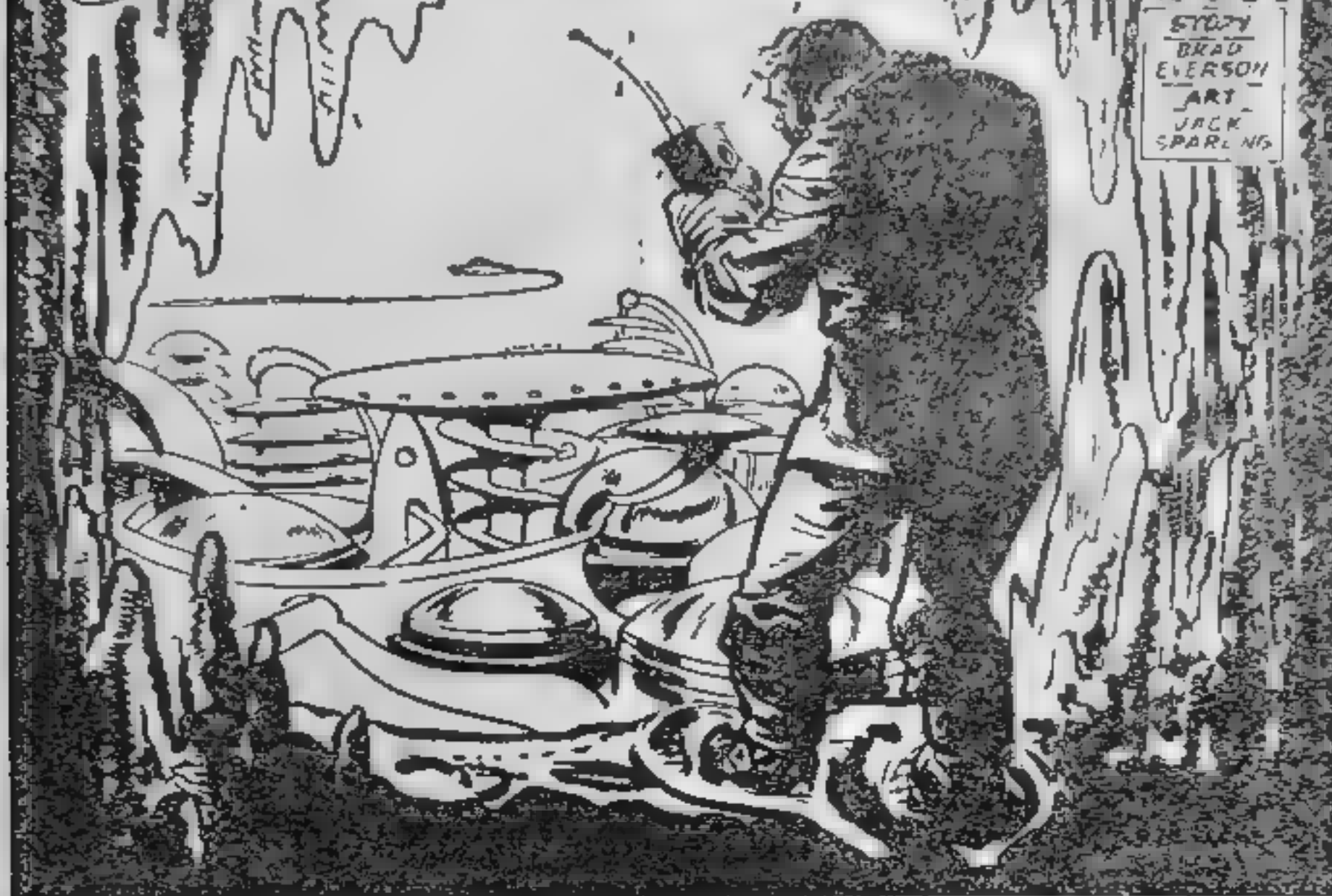
THE END



FOR GENERATIONS, MANKIND'S GREATEST SCIENTISTS AND EXPLORERS HAVE SCOURED THE ANTARCTIC FOR THE MYSTERIES LOCKED BENEATH THE POLAR ICE-CAP. BUT THE SOUTH POLE'S MOST FANTASTIC SECRET OF ALL MUST REMAIN HIDDEN FOREVER. FOR ONLY LANCE SABIN WAS FATED TO SEE THE INCREDIBLE---

# GOLDEN CITY!

STORY  
BRAD  
EVERSON  
ART  
JACK  
SPARLING



YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR--THE MASTER PLAN WHICH BROUGHT THE WORLD'S GREAT SCIENTIFIC MINDS DOWN TO THE SOUTH POLE TO PROBE, MEASURE AND RECORD THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE ANTARCTIC---

TO THE OVERWORKED SCIENTIST, EACH MOMENT OF RESPIRE WAS PRECIOUS. BUT FOR LANCE SABIN THERE WAS NO REST, NO PEACE---

HE'S STILL

IT'S SABIN! HE'S STARTING OUT ON ANOTHER OF HIS SOLO TREKS ACROSS THE ICE!

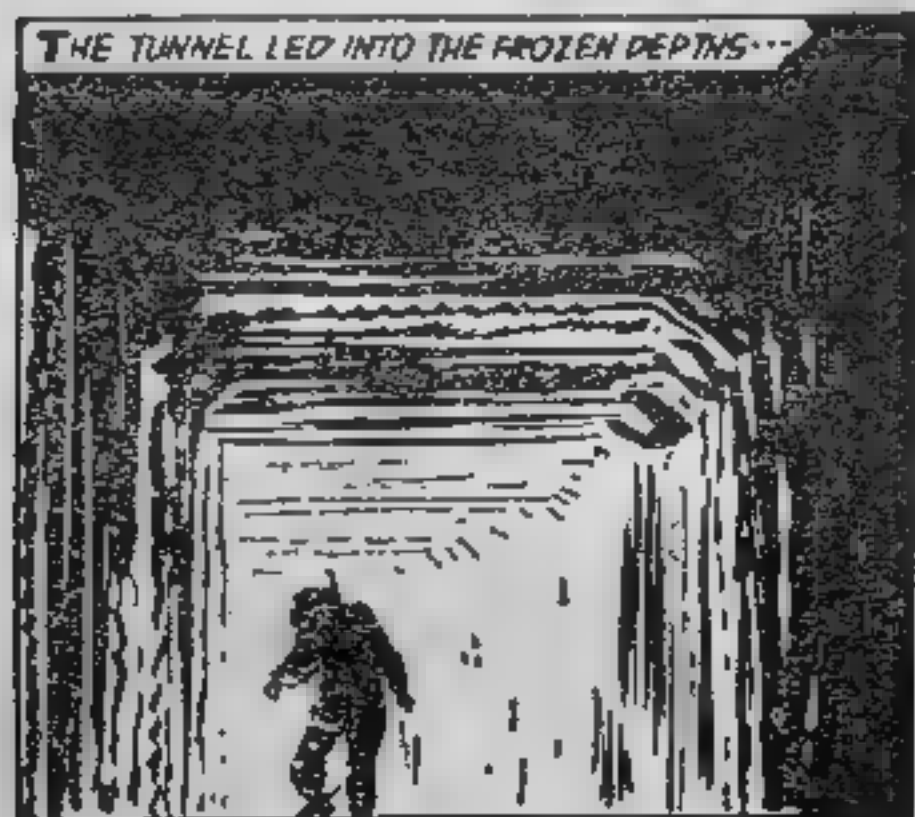
SEARCHING FOR THAT LOST CITY OF HIS-- THE GOLDEN CITY

BENEATH THE ICE!













AS THE RACE OF HOMO SAPIENS GREW SPREADING WAR GREED AND DESTRUCTION MY PEOPLE MIGRATED WESTWARD TO THE LOST CONTINENTS OF ATLANTIS AND MU -- "



WHEN YOUR FIRST EXPLORER SAILED WESTWARD BRINGING WITH THEM THE POWER OF GOD, THEY FOUND THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR US TO DO, BUT TO USE THE BEST OF OUR SECRET POWERS WE HAD DISCOVERED TO SINK OUR CIVILIZATION BENEATH THE SEA



AND SO, AT LAST, WE CAME HERE TO BUILD OUR CITY BENEATH THE POLAR ICE-CAP HOPING THAT THE GREEDY WARLIKE WORLD WOULD NEVER FIND US!

AND NOW THAT LAST HOPE IS GONE! I--I UNDERSTAND!



JUST THEN--

THE COUNCIL HAS MADE ITS DECISION! THE OUTLANDER MUST RETURN TO THE CHAMBER!

COME, LANCE, WE WILL HEAR THE DECISION TOGETHER!



YOU MAY REMAIN HERE WITH US IN OUR GOLDEN CITY, IF YOU WISH! BUT IF YOU DECIDE TO RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE, YOU WILL NEVER BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO OUR CITY AGAIN!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! LISTEN TO ME ALL OF YOU!



IF YOU WOULD MAKE CONTACT WITH MY PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE, YOU COULD RAISE US TO YOUR LEVEL OF CIVILIZATION! THERE IS SO MUCH YOU COULD TEACH US!

IT WOULD BE USELESS! YOUR GREED, YOUR LOVE OF VIOLENCE WOULD ONLY MISUSE THE KNOWLEDGE WE WOULD GIVE YOU!



IT WAS THEN THAT LANCE FORMED A CLEVER PLAN-- TO LEARN WHAT HE COULD OF THIS MASTER CIVILIZATION AND THEN ESCAPE AFTERWARD--

VERY WELL, THEN, I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER! I WILL REMAIN HERE AND BECOME ONE OF YOU!

I KNOW YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH US! I KNOW IT!



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, LANCE BECAME HIS CONSTANT UNWELCOMING TAUGHT WITH THE SECRETS OF THE SUPER RACE.

AND THESE ARE OUR HYDROPONIC GARDENS AND ORCHARDS! HERE WE RAISE FOOD AND FRUIT TO FEED OUR POPULATION!

YOUR AGRICULTURE IS AMAZING! MY OWN PEOPLE ARE CENTURIES BEHIND YOU.

BUT THE MEN OF VERNAL DON'T WANT METALS GET THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE CLOSE. IN DOWN HERE DON'T YOU EVER WANT TO BREAK OUT INTO THE UPPER WORLD?

OF COURSE! AFTER ALL, THAT WORLD WAS OURS! AND WHEN OUR HIDDEN LONGING BECOMES TOO STRONG TO BEAR...

WE'VE YOUR WAY! THROUGH TO THE OUTER WORLD LIKE THIS!

VERNA BE CAREFUL WITH THAT BURNER CO YOU'LL

KSSSSSS!

DON'T BE AFRAID, LANCE—I'VE DONE THIS MANY TIMES BEFORE. COME, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

SOON AFTERWARD, THEY EMERGED FROM BENEATH THE ICY DEPTHS. WHAT LANCE SAW WAS INCREDIBLE.

A FERTILE VALLEY HERE IN THE MIST OF THE POLAR ICE-CAP! IT'S FANTASTIC! HOW DO YOU DO IT?

WE HAVE FOUND A GREAT NEW SOURCE OF POWER, LANCE!

WE HAVE THE MIGHTY RADIO MAGNETIC POWER OF THE AURORA AUSTRALIS! IT IS A FORCE FAR GREATER THAN ALL YOUR NUCLEAR SUPER WEAPONS COMBINED!

UNBELIEVABLE! NEXT TO YOU, WE ARE LIKE CHILDREN!

NO, YOU ARE NOT CHILDREN! YOUR RACE HAS SOMETHING WHICH MY OWN PEOPLE HAVE ALMOST FORGOTTEN HERE IN OUR GOLDEN CITY! YOU HAVE COURAGE... DARING!

YOU MEAN YOU FIND SOMETHING TO ADMIRE IN US, VERNAL?



YES, LANCE, THERE IS SOMETHING  
SPLENDID IN THE WAY YOUR PEOPLE  
BRAVE THE ELEMENTS DEFY DANGER  
AND DEATH JUST TO UNCOVER THE  
SECRETS OF THIS ICY POLAR WORLD!  
MEN LIKE YOU, LANCE... I THINK THEY'RE  
MAGNIFICENT!



AND GIRLS LIKE YOU,  
VERNA, THEY'RE  
LOVELY UNUTTERABLY  
BEAUTIFUL!



YOU MEAN  
THERE AREN'T  
ANY GIRLS YOU  
LIKE BACK IN  
YOUR OWN  
WORLD,  
LANCE?

NONE LIKE YOU,  
VERNA!



BUT DESPITE HIS NEW-FOUND LOVE FOR VERNA, LANCE  
LONGED FOR HIS OWN WORLD. EACH NIGHT HE LISTENED  
AVIDLY TO THE RADIO HE'D SALVAGED...

FORCE ABLE-BAKER TO HEADQUARTERS!  
OUR TRACTORS ARE WITHIN TEN MILES  
OF THE GEOGRAPHIC POLE!



FORCE ABLE-BAKER  
...THAT WAS MY GROUP!  
I SHOULD BE THERE WITH  
THEM, WORKING, DOING  
MY SHARE!

LANCE YOU PROMISED  
ME YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN  
ANYMORE!



MY DEAREST, YOU LONG  
FOR YOUR PEOPLE, DON'T  
YOU?

I DO, VERNA... BUT MY  
LOVE FOR YOU REPAYS  
ME FOR EVERYTHING  
I'VE LOST!

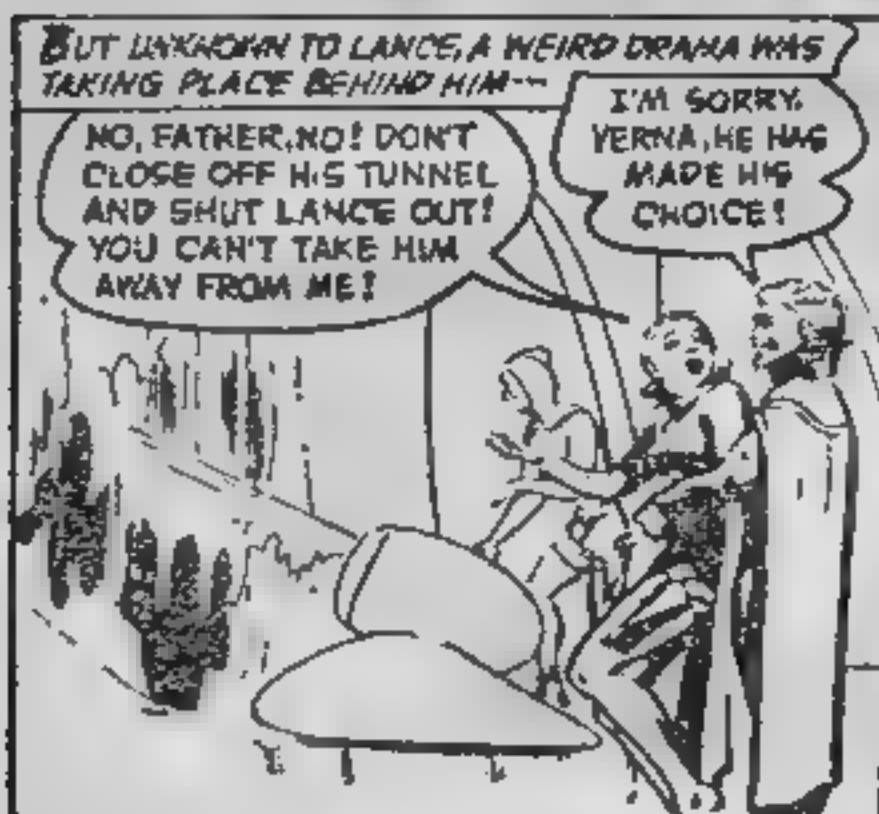


AND THEN, ONE FATEFUL NIGHT...

AIR TRANSPORT B-02 CALLING  
BASE! OUR MOTORS ARE FAILING!  
WE ARE GOING DOWN IN SECTOR  
A-12... SEND HELP AT ONCE!

SECTOR A-12?  
THAT'S THE MOST  
ISOLATED SPOT IN  
ANTARCTICA! THAT  
PLANE CREW WILL  
BE DEAD BY THE  
TIME HELP COULD  
REACH THEM! I...  
I'VE GOT TO DO  
SOMETHING!







IT WAS THE FIRST SHIP TO VENTURE INTO THE VASTNESS OF DEEP SPACE AND ITS OCCUPANTS HAD EXPECTED TO DISCOVER WONDERS NEVER SEEN BEFORE BUT NEVER DID THEY DREAM THAT THEY WOULD STUMBLE UPON...

# The WORLD of GIANTS!

STORY  
PIERCE  
RAND  
ART  
LEO  
MOREY



**EXTRA!**  
**'UNKNOWN WORLDS'**  
...THE *YOU* COMIC  
YOU MUSTN'T MISS  
... AT YOUR  
NEWSDEALER  
**SOON!**

AT THE END OF A LONG AND EXHAUSTING JOURNEY ACROSS THE GULFS OF SPACE, THE ROCKET SHIP **EXPLORER** MADE A STRANGE DISCOVERY...

THAT SOLAR SYSTEM  
JUST AHEAD... IT'S  
AMAZINGLY LIKE  
OUR OWN.

THAT SUN! THOSE  
PLANETS! WHY,  
THEY'RE THE  
MIRROR IMAGE  
OF OURS!

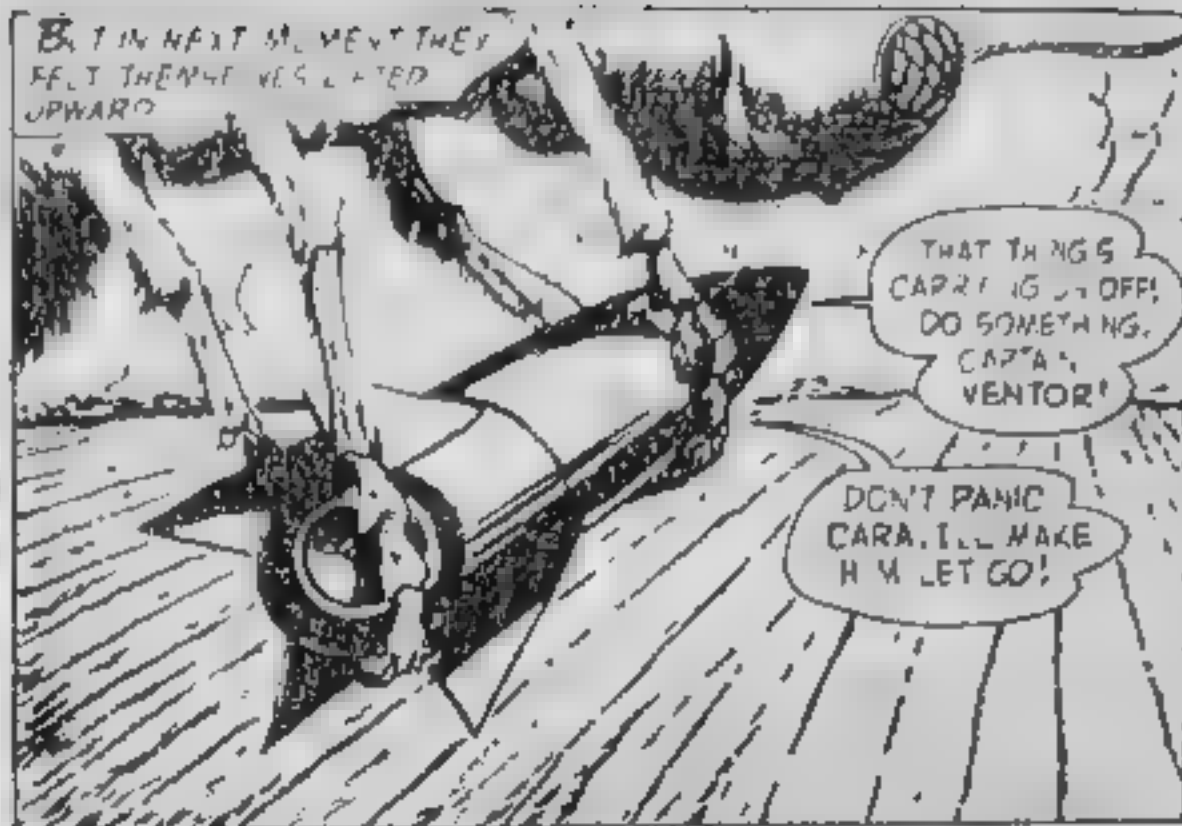
CAPTAIN VANTOR,  
LOOK! THAT THIRD  
PLANET! IT'S EXACTLY  
LIKE THE ONE WHERE  
**WE LIVE!**

DOWN TO THE  
LAST CONTINENT  
AND SEA!













AND AS THE ROCKET TUBES ERUPTED IN A STORM  
OF FERY POWER...

EEEEYOW!  
MY HAND!

WE MADE  
IT! BUT I  
WOULDN'T  
WANT TO  
TAKE THAT  
KIND OF A  
CHANCE  
AGAIN

YOU'RE RIGHT BUT  
IT'S A PITY OUR FIRST  
REPORT BACK HOME  
MUST LIST THIS PLANET  
AS TOO DANGER-  
OUR FOR  
OUR SPECIES

MEANWHILE ON THE PLANET  
BELOW... JUST LOOK AT  
THIS HAND MARTHA.  
PICKED UP A STRANGE-  
LOOKING INSECT OUT IN  
THE GARDEN AND IT STUNG  
ME!

HERE'S THE WHOLE WORLD  
WATCHING THEM LAUNCH THAT  
NEW SPACE ROCKET AT CAPE  
CANAVERAL AND YOU'RE  
WORRIED ABOUT A MISER-  
ABLE INSECT BITE!

HIRAM BIXBY WHY MUST  
YOU BOTHER ME WITH  
SUCH SILLY TRIFLES AT  
A TIME LIKE  
THIS?

JUST THINK SOME  
DAY MANKIND WILL BE  
TRAVELING IN OUTER  
SPACE... THE FIRST  
CREATURE TO EXPLORE  
THE STARS!

FIRST THEM SCIENTISTS  
BETTER INVENT AN  
INSECT SPRAY  
THAT WORKS!

WILL MANKIND BE THE FIRST TO EXPLORE THE  
STARS? WHO KNOWS WHAT SECRETS THIS MYSTER-  
IOUS COSMOS HIDES FROM OUR EYES?

EXPLORER GUY FARR HAD LONG AWAITED THE DAY HE COULD SEEK OUT THE LEGENDARY "VALLEY OF THE GIANTS"! DEEP IN HIS HEART HE COULD NOT SMOTHER THE HOPE THAT SUCH A LAND MIGHT EXIST! THUS DID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUE SET OUT IN QUEST OF A BIZARRE LAND... NEVER REALIZING THAT...

# NONE ARE SO BLIND!



"AND THE ISLAND WOULD TREMBLE AS THE VALLEY GIANTS WOULD RAID THE SEA FOR WAYWARD SHIPS!"





THE GREAT CREATURES WERE OF GOOD TEMPER, FOR THEY WOULD NOT HARM THE BRAVE MEN WHO SAILED IN SHIPS...

THIS WERE THE MEN TAKEN LIKE TINY DOLLS TO THE SECRET VALLEY OF THE GIANTS!



THEY'RE NOT HARMING US!

NO LEGENDS OF THE SEA SAY THEY CAPTURE SAULORS AND KEEP THEM AS PETS!



DO NOT FEAR, FRIENDS! YOU SHALL BE WELL FED AND COMFORTABLE HERE WITH US! WE ONLY WISH TO BE CERTAIN THE SECRET OF OUR EXISTENCE IS KEPT FROM THE WORLD!



SEE, CLARK... THERE IS EVEN A MAP OF THE VALLEY'S LOCATION ON MARTINIQUE!

IT'S FANTASTIC! A MYTHICAL LAND-NOT SEEN BY THE WORLD! WE MUST MAKE AN EXPEDITION! WE MUST MAKE THE EXPEDITION! WE MUST MAKE THE EXPEDITION!

FOURTEEN DAYS LATER, THE TWO MEN HAD ENTERED THE INTERIOR OF MARTINIQUE ON THE STRANGE QUEST...

A RAFT WAS MADE... AND THE EXPLORERS MATCHED THEIR SKILL AND STRENGTH AGAINST THE RAGING TORRENT...



THAT'S THE RIVER SHOWN ON THE MAP, CLARK! WE'VE GOT TO CROSS IT AND HEAD DUE NORTH!

A RAGING TORRENT...



WE SHOULD GIVE THIS FOOLISH MISSION UP! THIS TERRAIN IS TOO DANGEROUS TO CROSS WITHOUT AN ORGANIZED EXPEDITION!

YES... THAT'S WHY THE SECRET OF THE VALLEY OF THE GIANTS MAY HAVE BEEN KEPT FROM CIVILIZATION FOR SO LONG! BUT WE MUST CONTINUE!

ON AND ON, GUY FARR DROVE HIS FRIEND...

HOOR AFTER HOOR, THEY CLIMBED THE SHEER CANYON WALLS...



THAT CANYON... THIS IS WHERE THE MAP SAYS WE'LL FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE VALLEY!

OUR WATER SUPPLY WILL NEVER HOLD! WE HAVE TWO QUARTS LEFT... AND NO FRESH WATER HAS BEEN SEEN SINCE THE RIVER!



THERE IT IS, CLARK! THE CANYON CROSSING THAT LEADS TO THE LAND OF THE GIANTS!

INCREDIBLE! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU LEAD ME THIS FAR!

FIERCE MOUNTAIN WINDS SWEEPING DOWN THE CANYON TOOK AT THE TWO FIGURES AS THEY SOUGHT TO CROSS...



HANG ON, CLARK!  
WE MUST NOT  
FAIL NOW!

FINALLY...

CLARK! A VILLAGE...  
DOWN IN THE VALLEY!  
WE'VE FOUND IT!

YES... AND IT'S  
PROBABLY JUST  
ANOTHER NATIVE  
VILLAGE! BUT WE'LL  
NEVER MAKE EVEN  
THAT WITHOUT WATER!



MILE AFTER MILE THEY STUMBLED ON-  
WARD! THEN WHEN IT SEEMED ANOTHER  
STEP WAS IMPOSSIBLE...

THEIR THIRST QUENCHED, A NEW VIGOR  
FILLED THEM AS THEY SURGED ON...



CLARK... A SPRING  
... WATER!

THANK  
GOODNESS!

WHY, IT'S JUST A  
VILLAGE OF ORDINARY  
SIZE! GIANTS  
COULDN'T  
LIVE HERE!

OF COURSE  
NOT! YOU'RE  
JUST A DREAMER,  
GUY... BUT  
I'M HAPPY TO  
FIND ANY SORT  
OF VILLAGE  
RIGHT NOW!



MODEL  
SHIPS!

CERTAINLY! THAT MUST  
BE THE BASIS OF THAT  
LEGEND! THE NATIVES  
HERE DEVELOPED A  
CRAFT... BUILDING  
MODEL SHIPS!



WELCOME TO OUR  
VILLAGE, STRANGERS!  
YOU JOURNEY FAR  
TO VISIT US!

YES... YES! BUT WE  
ARE SEEKING A  
SPECIAL PLACE!



WE HAVE CROSSED MANY SEAS AND  
CONTINENTS TO FIND THE PLACE HERE  
ON THE MAP! SURELY, YOU MUST  
KNOW OF IT! IT'S CALLED  
THE 'VALLEY OF THE GIANTS'!





WE KNOW OF NO SUCH PLACE, MY FRIEND! MY TRIBE HAS LIVED HERE IN PEACE FOR CENTURIES, BUILDING COPIES OF THE WATER CRAFT WE SEE ALONG THE SHORE!

BUT YOU MUST KNOW MORE OF THIS! LARGE, GIANT MEN! HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

THERE ARE NO GIANTS HERE! MY PEOPLE HAVE ROAMED MANY HUNDREDS OF MILES AND NEVER HAS ONE BEEN SEEN! THEY ARE QUIET PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR CRAFT OF SHIP BUILDING IN SMALLER FORM!

WELL, THAT'S THAT, GUY! NOW WILL YOU FORGET THAT WILD LEGEND?

FOOD AND WINE WERE BROUGHT BEFORE THE WEARY EXPLORERS! AND GUY FARR AT LAST KNEW HIS DREAM HAD BEEN SHATTERED...

WHEN YOU HAVE FEASTED WELL AND RESTED, MY MEN WILL SHOW YOU A SHORTER AND SAFER PATH OUT OF OUR VALLEY...

THANK YOU... I WAS A FOOL TO THINK SUCH GIANT CREATURES COULD EXIST!

AN HOUR LATER, AS THE TWO MEN BEGAN THEIR LONG TREK BACK...

IT IS WELL WE PUT THE MAGIC POTION OF GROWTH IN THE TRAIL SPRING...

YES, LEADER...

IN A MATTER OF HOURS, THE EFFECT WILL WEAR OFF AND THEY WILL BE OF NORMAL SIZE AGAIN!

THERE IS NO HARM DONE! AND IT IS BEST THE OUTSIDE WORLD NEVER KNOWS THERE IS ACTUALLY A VALLEY OF THE GIANTS! OUR PEACE AND CONTENTMENT HERE WILL NEVER BE DISTURBED!

HERE'S A MYSTERY THAT'S GOT SUPERNATURAL OVERTONES...AND A REAL ODD BALL HERO! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OLD ELIHU POKESWORTH...THE MAN WHO STEPPED INTO THE GREAT UNKNOWN SAYING...

"I GOTTA SEE **to EVERYTHING!**"

STORY:- <sup>BOB</sup>STANDISH  
ART:- <sup>PETE</sup>COSTANZA



OLD ELIHU POKESWORTH WAS HEAD OF THE BUREAU OF INSPECTION OF THE LISTON CITY REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT. KNOWN AS A HOLY TERROR, HE WAS ON ONE OF HIS TYPICAL RAMPAGES...

BUT...BUT I THOUGHT YOU SPELLED IT THAT WAY...

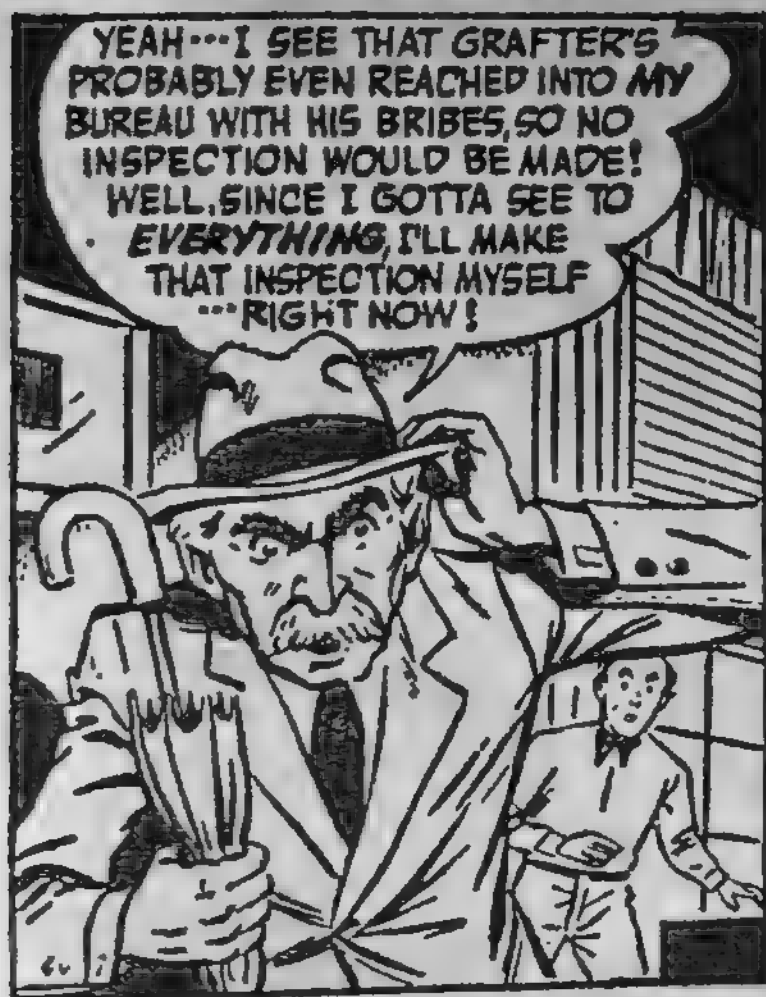
NO, NO, YOU BENIGHTED IDIOT! IT'S NOT PIKESWORTH, YOU MORON, IT'S...OH, WHAT'S THE USE! GIVE ME THAT BRUSH!

THERE...LIKE THAT! TCH, TCH... I GOTTA SEE TO **EVERYTHING!**

ELIHU POKESW

POKESWORTH





AND NOW LET'S LOOK IN ON GLENN W. ARMISTER AND HIS CROOKED LAWYER, HANK ORGANZA...AT THE SITE OF THE NEW BUILDING. THE WORKERS HAD JUST LEFT FOR THE DAY...



ONLY HALF UP, AND 100% RENTED ALREADY! I'M GONNA MAKE A LOT OF DOUGH OUT OF THIS BUILDING, ORGANZA...



YOU BET...SPECIALLY WITH THE SHORTCUTS YOU'RE TAKING IN THE CONSTRUCTION. THEY'LL SAVE YOU A LOT AND THAT INCREASES PROFITS!

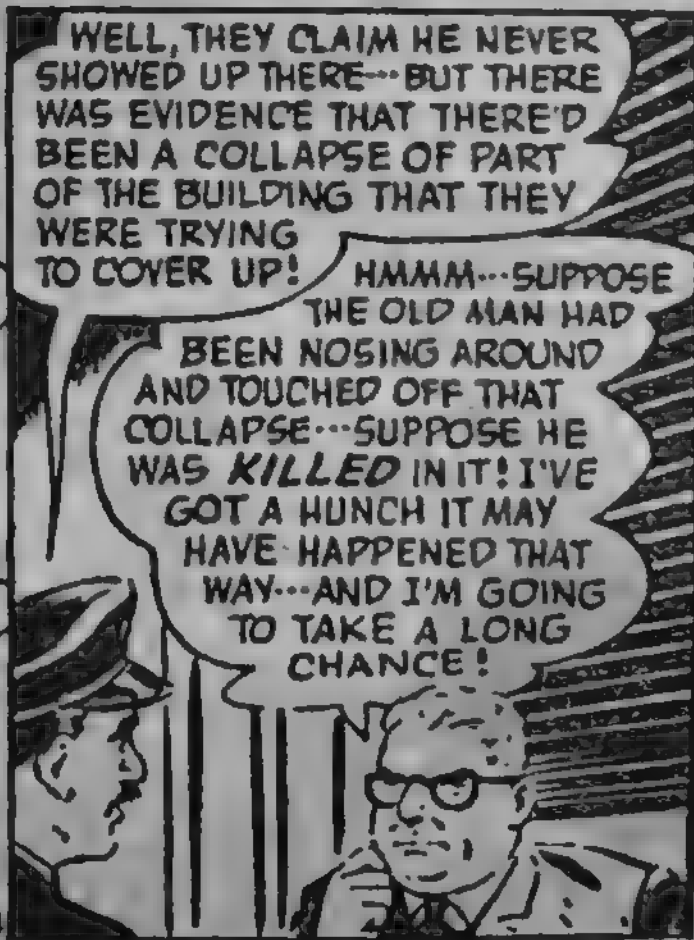
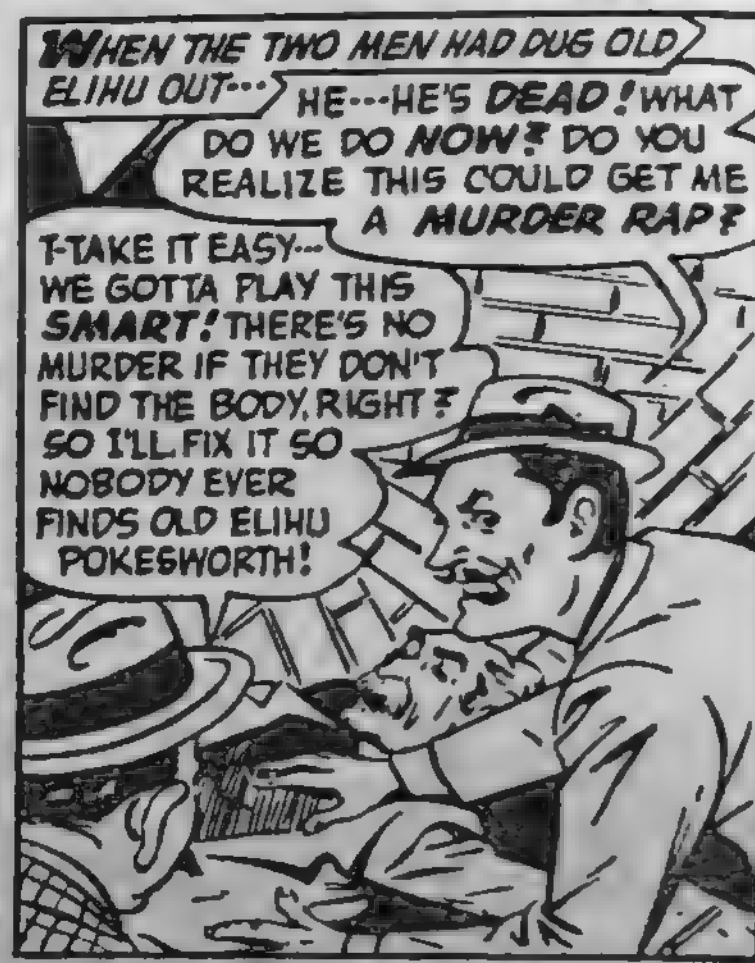
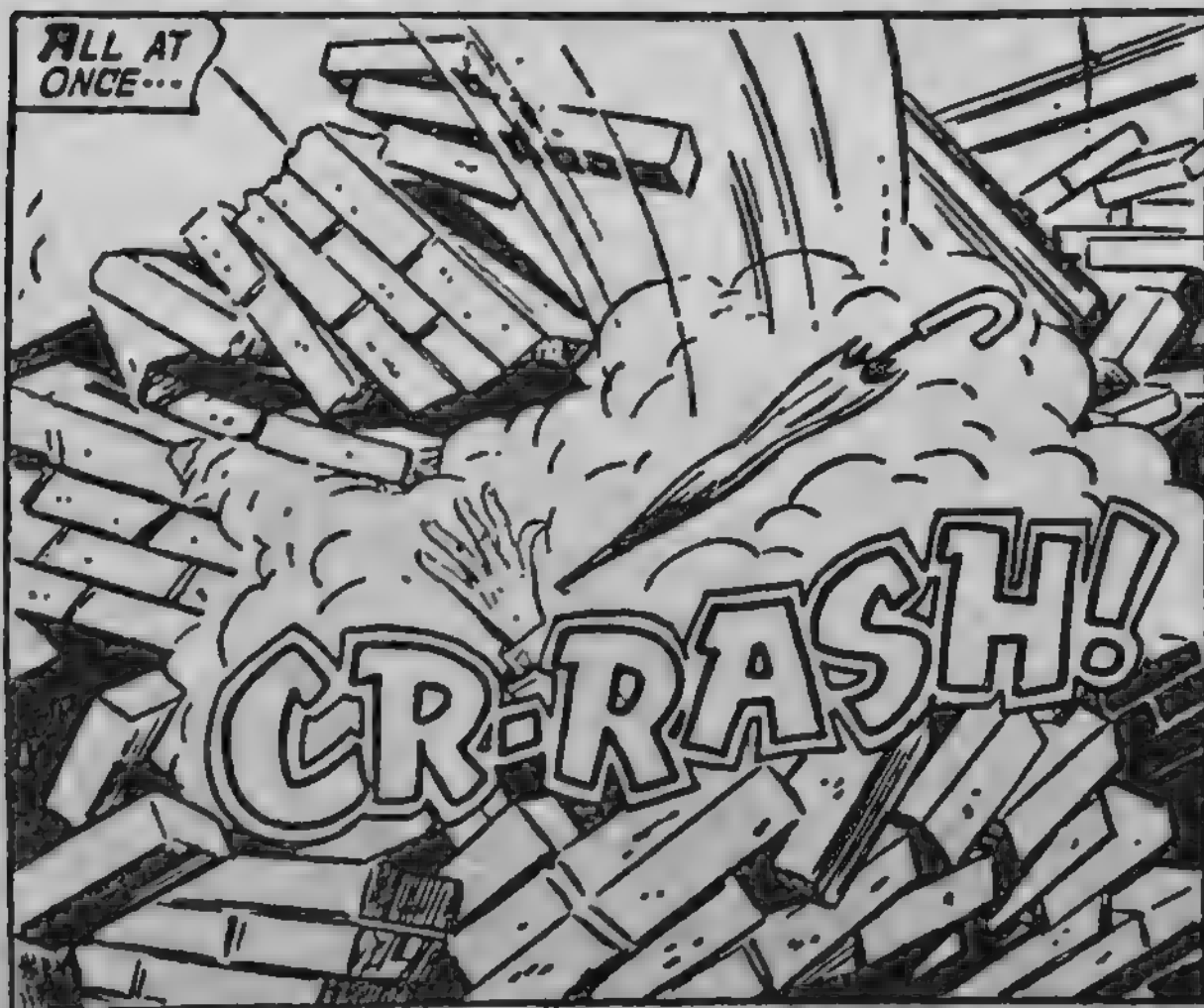
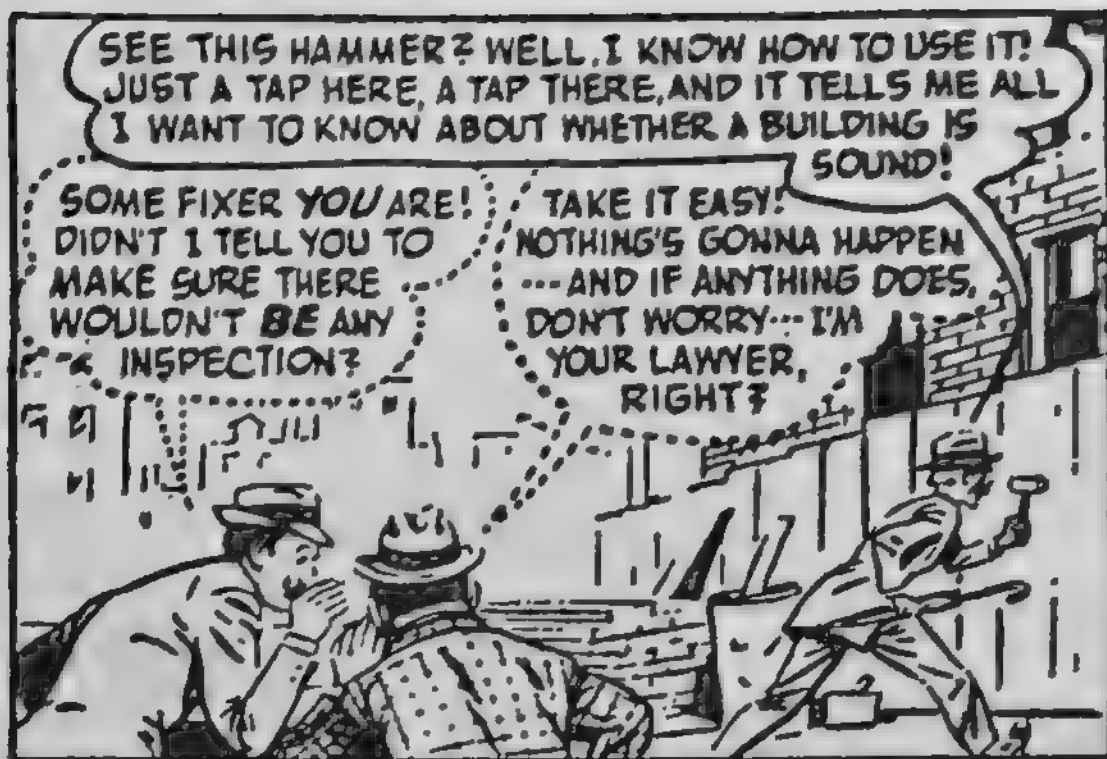


SUDDENLY...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT NOT SENDING AN INSPECTOR? I SENT ONE...ME! AND I'M GONNA DO MY INSPECTION THIS VERY SECOND, SEE?



HOLY SMOKE...NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT! IT'S OLD ELIHU POKESWORTH, THE HEAD OF THE BUREAU HIMSELF!



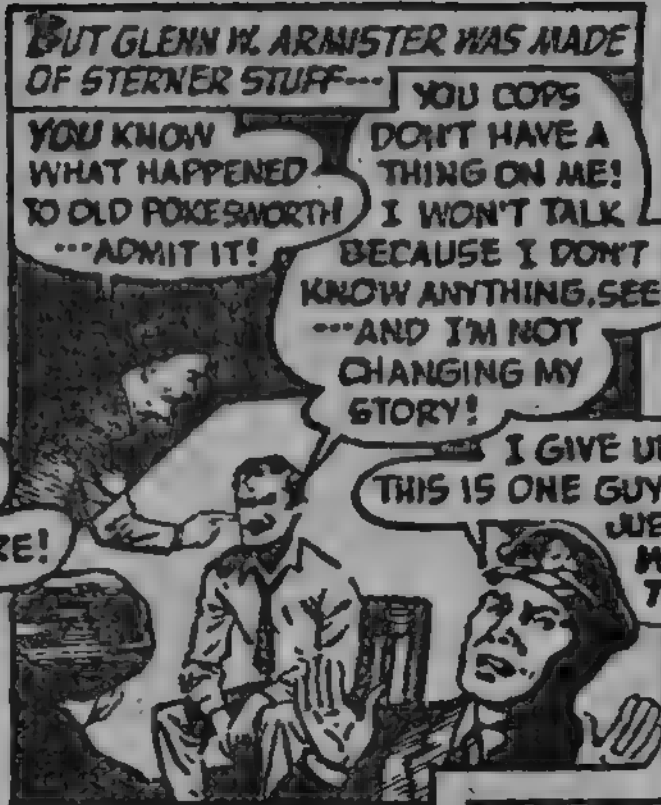




**A QUICK CALL TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE...** HELLO, TOM? SEND DOWN SOME MEN FROM THE HOMICIDE BUREAU AND PICK UP GLENN W. ARMISTER ON SUSPICION OF MANSLAUGHTER!...NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY REAL EVIDENCE...THIS IS JUST A BLUFF! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO LAND THAT CROOK ARMISTER FOR A LONG TIME, AND IF I'VE GUESSED RIGHT ON THIS, HE MAY TALK UNDER PRESSURE!



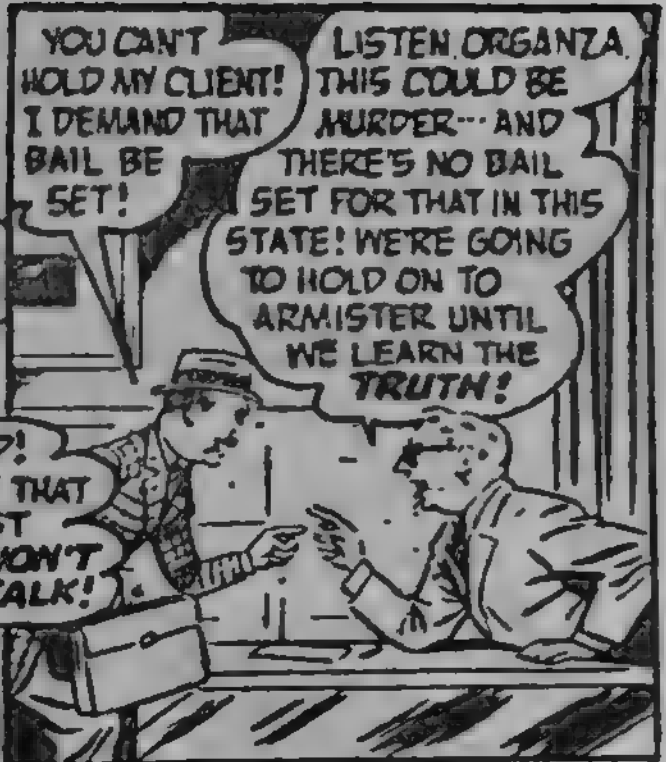
**BUT GLENN W. ARMISTER WAS MADE OF STERNER STUFF...** YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO OLD POKESWORTH!...ADMIT IT! YOU COPS DON'T HAVE A THING ON ME! I WON'T TALK BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, SEE...AND I'M NOT CHANGING MY STORY!



YOU CAN'T HOLD MY CLIENT! I DEMAND THAT BAIL BE SET!

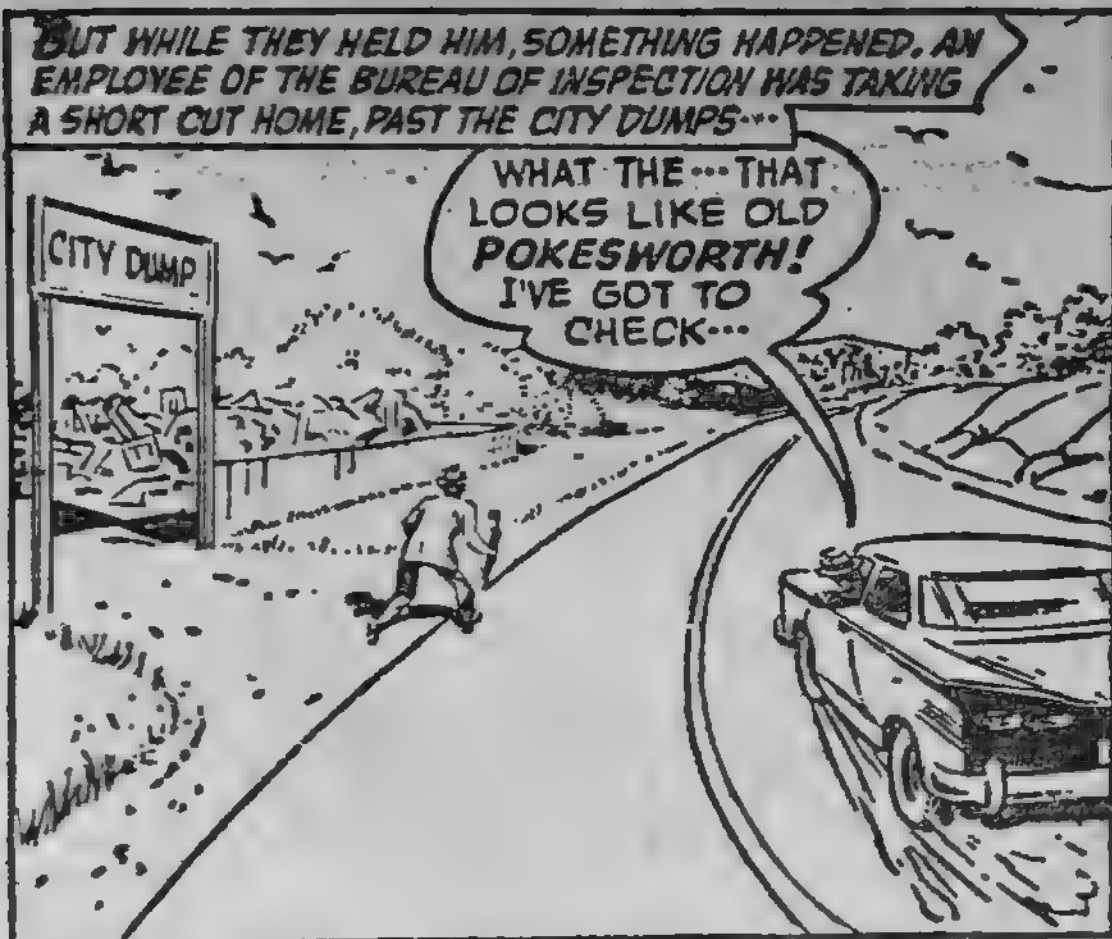
LISTEN, ORGANZA, THIS COULD BE MURDER...AND THERE'S NO BAIL SET FOR THAT IN THIS STATE! WE'RE GOING TO HOLD ON TO ARMISTER UNTIL WE LEARN THE TRUTH!

I GIVE UP! THIS IS ONE GUY THAT JUST WON'T TALK!



**BUT WHILE THEY HELD HIM, SOMETHING HAPPENED. AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BUREAU OF INSPECTION WAS TAKING A SHORT CUT HOME, PAST THE CITY DUMPS...**

WHAT THE...THAT LOOKS LIKE OLD POKESWORTH! I'VE GOT TO CHECK...



**MR. POKESWORTH! IT IS YOU! BUT...BUT WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?**

NEVER MIND THAT! HOW ARE THINGS AT THE BUREAU? INSPECTIONS MOVING ALONG ON SCHEDULE?



WELL...ER...WE ARE JUST A BIT BEHIND...

I THOUGHT SO! GOLDURN IT, I GOTTA SEE TO EVERYTHING...AND WHEN I'M NOT AROUND, THE BUREAU GOES TO POT!

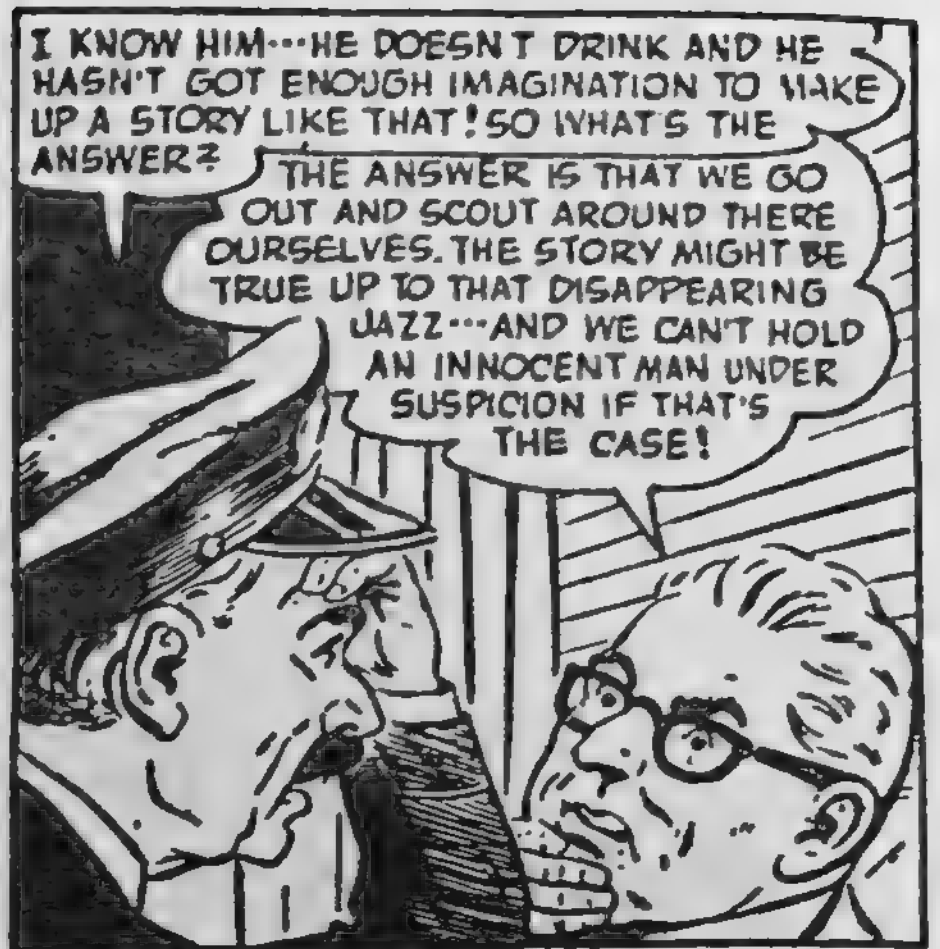
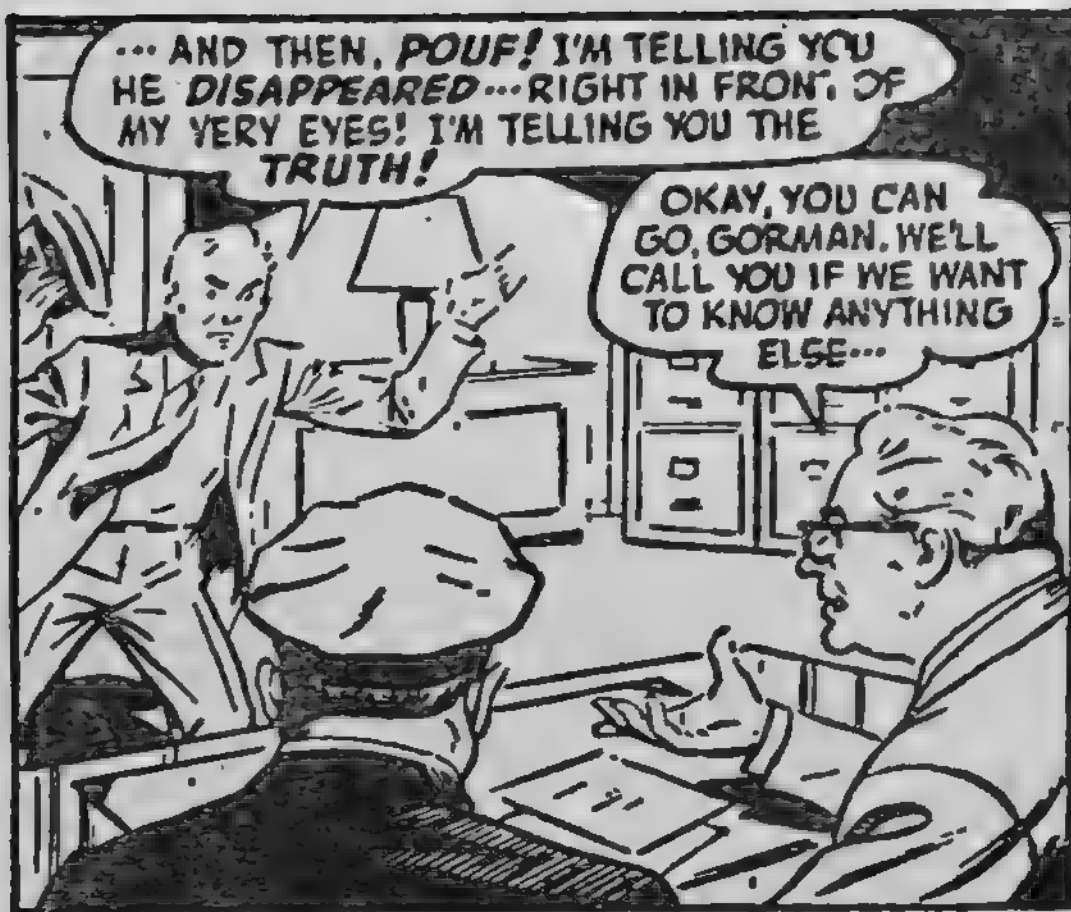


AH, WHAT'S THE USE OF TALKING TO YOU? I'M DISGUSTED!

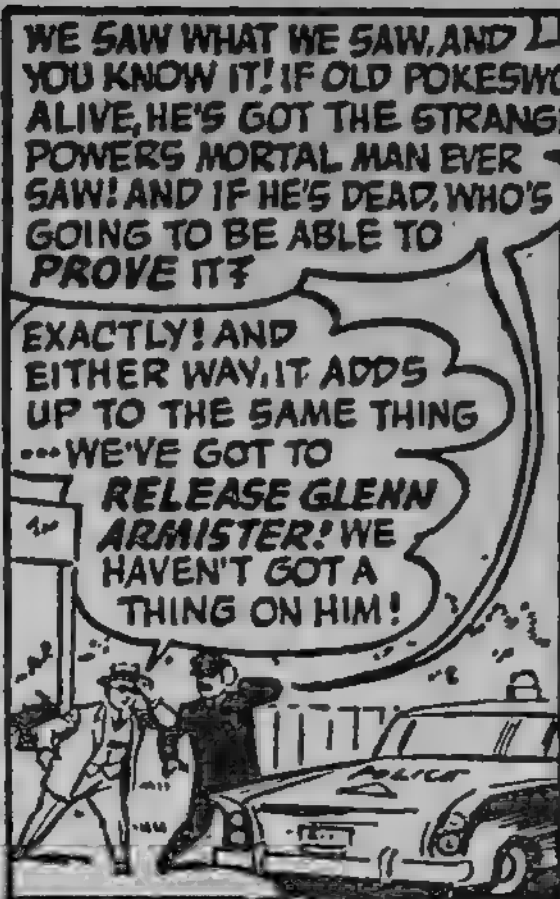
HE... HE D-DISAPPEARED!

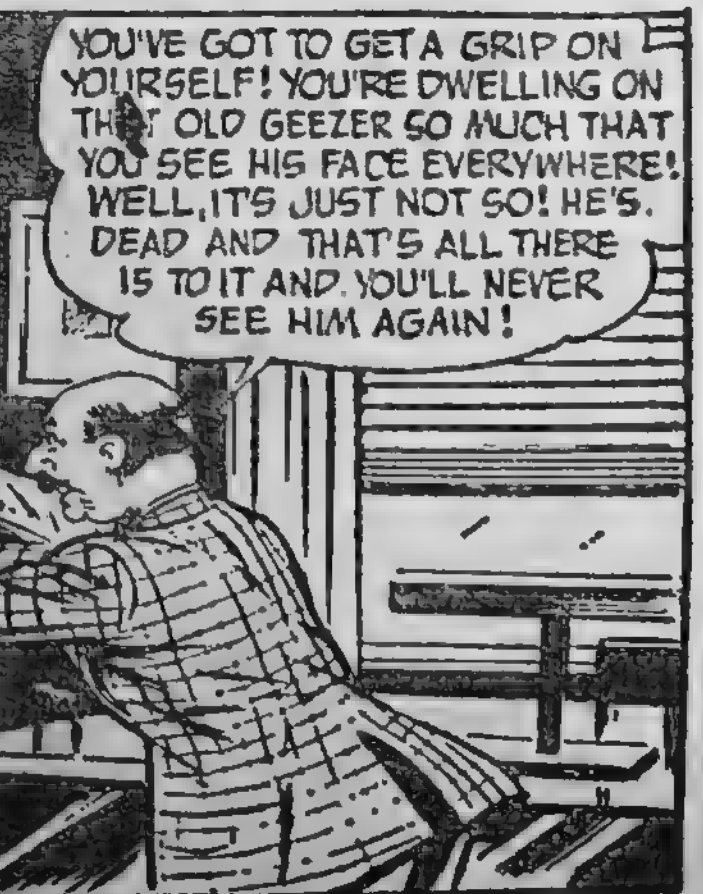
**POUF!**













JUST REMEMBER NOW--YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN SHAPE FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF THE NEW THUNDER RIVER DAM--THE BIGGEST PROJECT YOU EVER BUILT!

RIGHT! IT WAS JUST MY NERVES, I GUESS--BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN! I'M TOO STRONG FOR THIS KIND OF NONSENSE--I'LL PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!

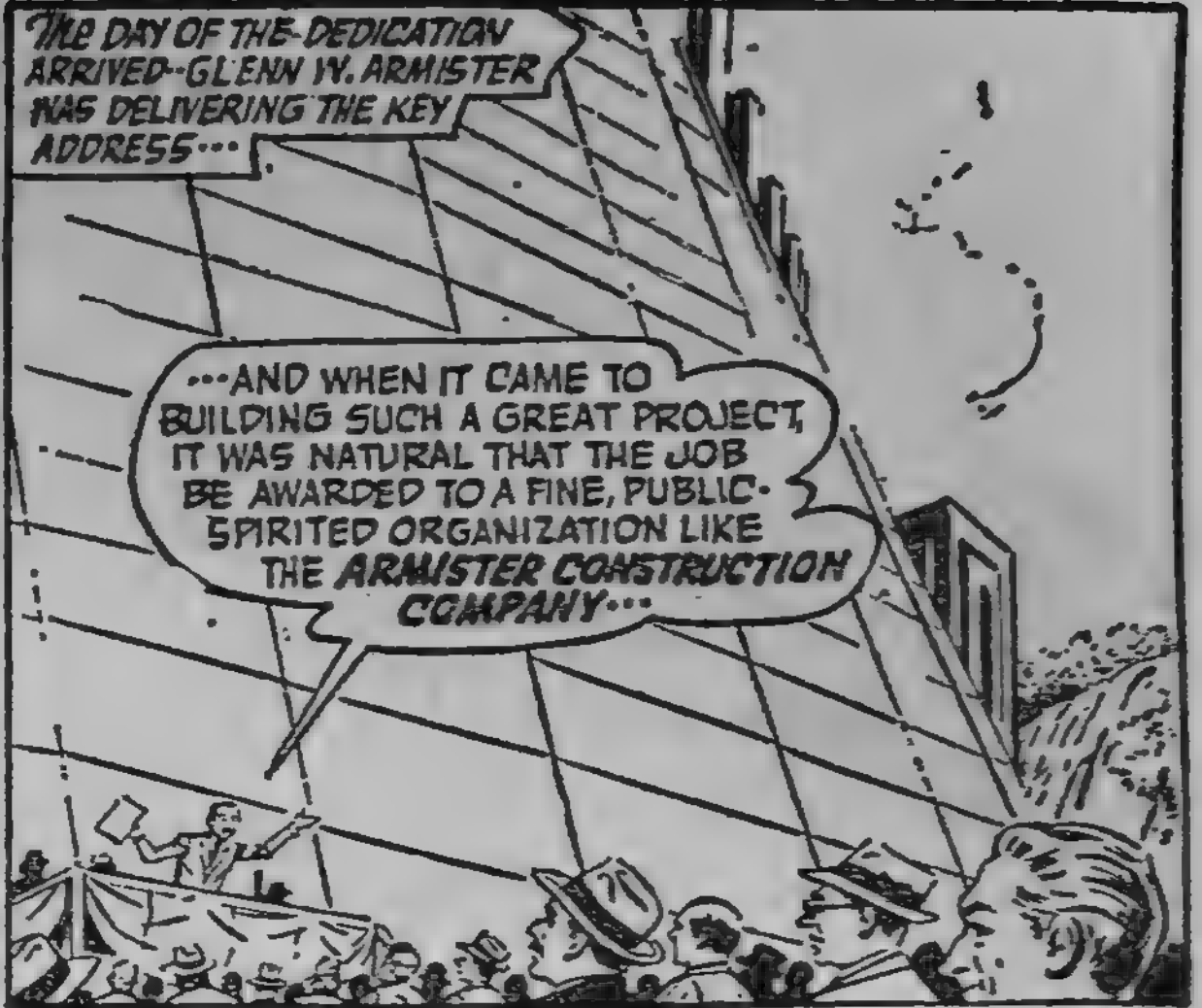


...A COMPANY WHOSE EXPERIENCE ...UH--AND HIGH STANDARDS--ER--



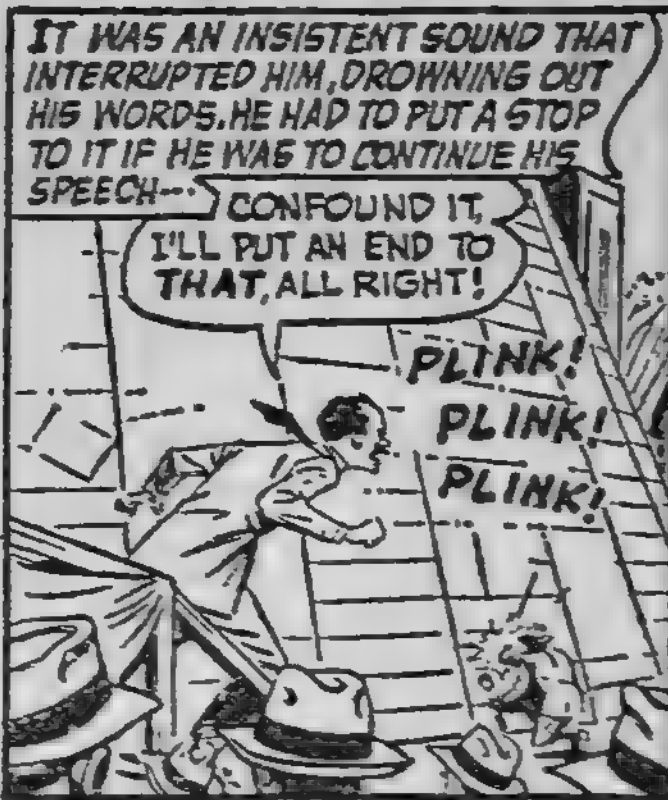
THE DAY OF THE DEDICATION ARRIVED--GLENN W. ARMISTER WAS DELIVERING THE KEY ADDRESS--

...AND WHEN IT CAME TO BUILDING SUCH A GREAT PROJECT, IT WAS NATURAL THAT THE JOB BE AWARDED TO A FINE, PUBLIC-SPIRITED ORGANIZATION LIKE THE ARMISTER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY--



IT WAS AN INSISTENT SOUND THAT INTERRUPTED HIM, DROWNING OUT HIS WORDS. HE HAD TO PUT A STOP TO IT IF HE WAS TO CONTINUE HIS SPEECH--

CONFOUND IT, I'LL PUT AN END TO THAT, ALL RIGHT!



HOW DARE YOU USE THAT HAMMER WHEN I'M TRYING TO DELIVER AN ADDRESS?--DID YOU HEAR ME? FACE ME WHEN I TALK TO YOU!



!GULP!:



THIS DAM IS NO GOOD, JUST LIKE THE REST OF YOUR ROTTEN CONSTRUCTION! HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE YOU GONNA KILL THIS TIME, LIKE YOU KILLED ME?

NO-- ARGH--

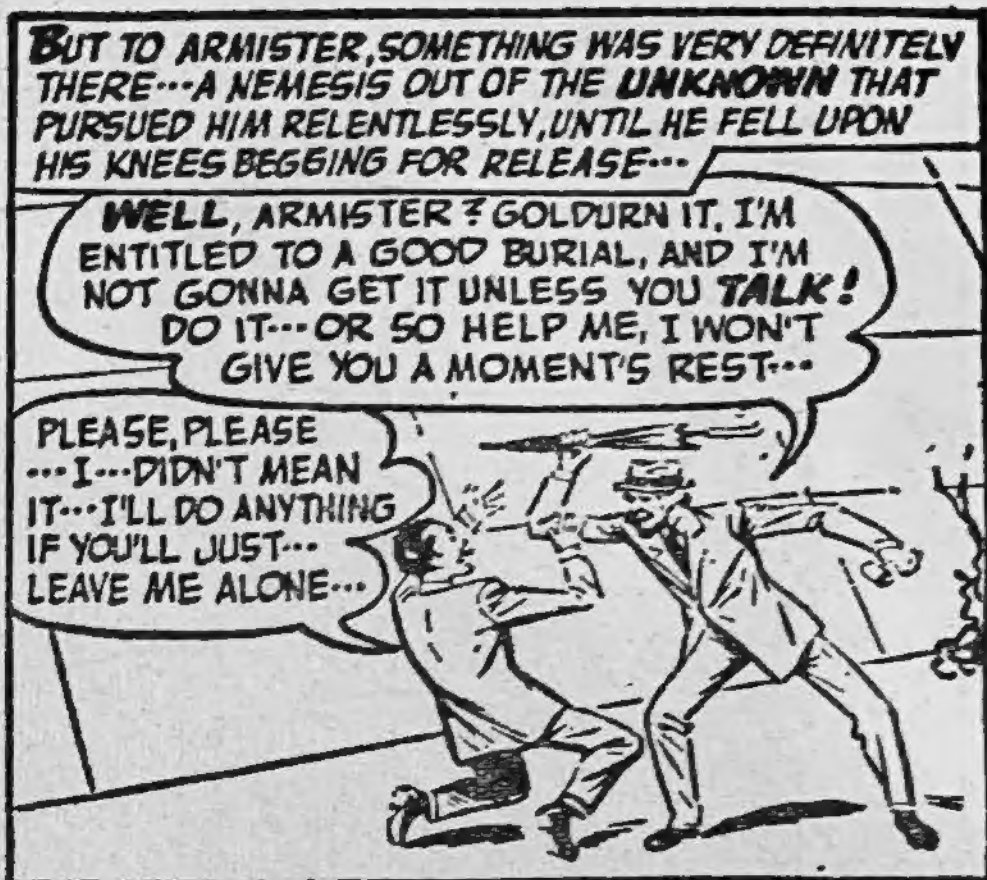






WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN IS GOING ON? LOOK AT THAT EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE, AS IF HE SEES SOMETHING SHOCKING... BUT THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

NO... ARGH...



BUT TO ARMISTER, SOMETHING WAS VERY DEFINITELY THERE... A NEMESIS OUT OF THE UNKNOWN THAT PURSUED HIM RELENTLESSLY, UNTIL HE FELL UPON HIS KNEES BEGGING FOR RELEASE...

WELL, ARMISTER? GOLDURN IT, I'M ENTITLED TO A GOOD BURIAL, AND I'M NOT GONNA GET IT UNLESS YOU TALK! DO IT... OR SO HELP ME, I WON'T GIVE YOU A MOMENT'S REST...

PLEASE, PLEASE... I... DIDN'T MEAN IT... I'LL DO ANYTHING IF YOU'LL JUST LEAVE ME ALONE...



... I'LL DO ANYTHING IF YOU'LL JUST... LEAVE ME ALONE...

NOW HE'S ON HIS KNEES... IN FRONT OF NOBODY! WHAT NEXT?

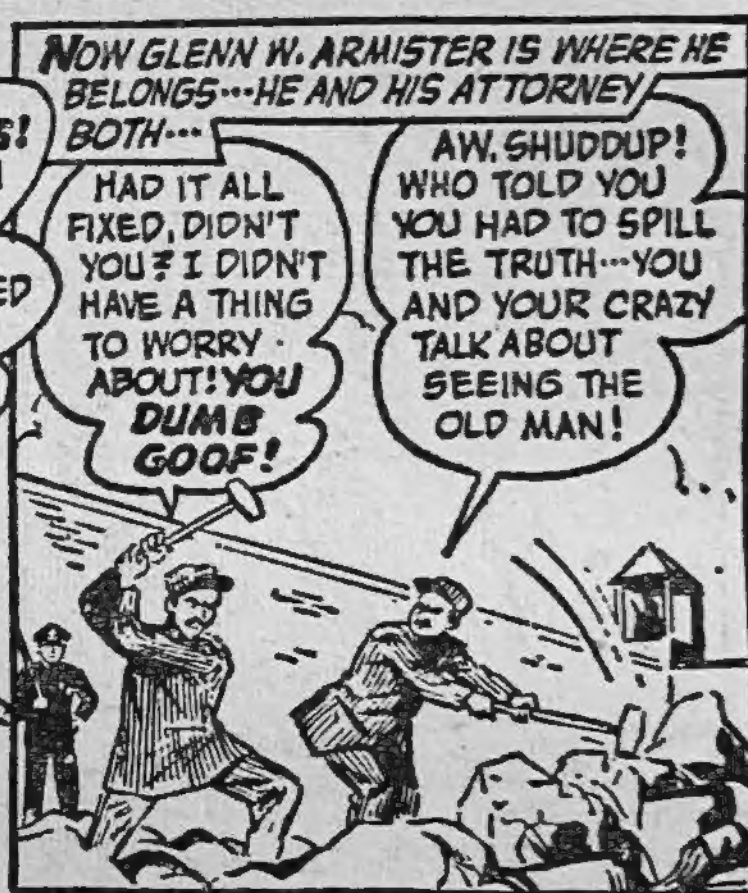
I'VE GOT AN IDEA WHAT'S COMING NEXT. LET'S JUST WALK UP AND LET HIM SEE US...



I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL US, ARMISTER!



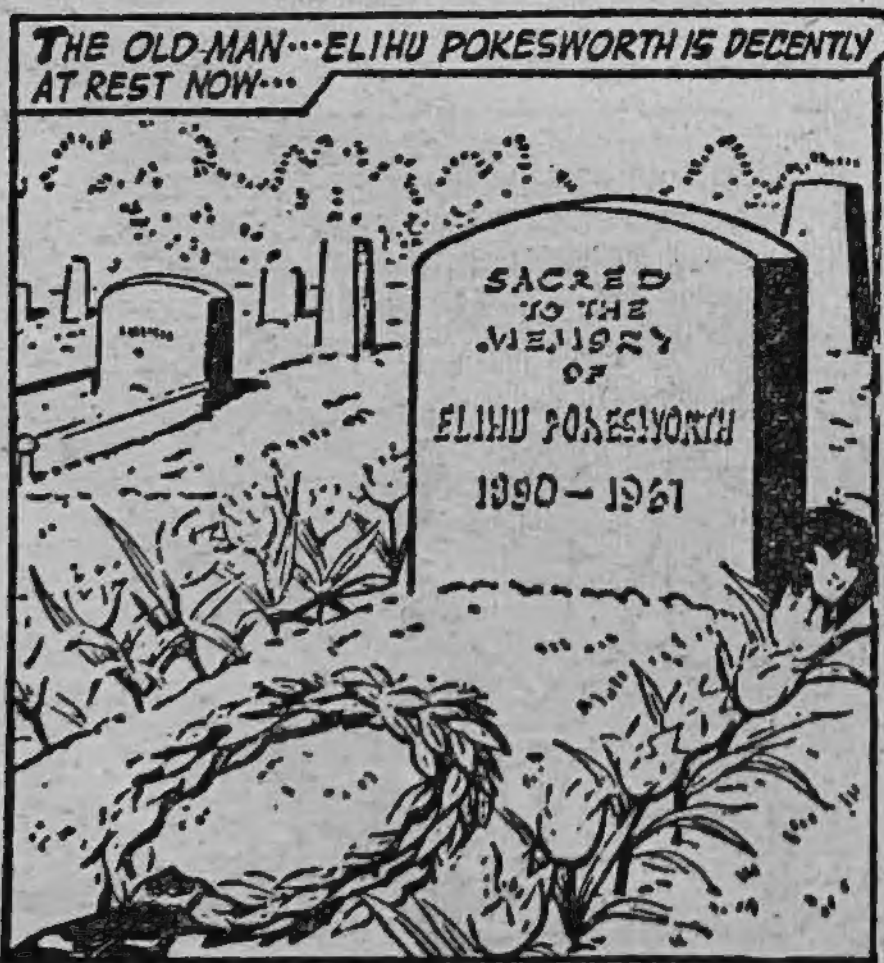
YOU! THANK HEAVENS... I... I WANT TO CONFESS! ELIHU POKESWORTH... HE WAS KILLED WHEN PART OF MY BUILDING COLLAPSED ON HIM! I'LL TAKE YOU... TO WHERE HE'S BURIED...



NOW GLENN W. ARMISTER IS WHERE HE BELONGS... HE AND HIS ATTORNEY BOTH...

HAD IT ALL FIXED, DIDN'T YOU? I DIDN'T HAVE A THING TO WORRY ABOUT! YOU DUMB GOOF!

AW, SHUDDUP! WHO TOLD YOU YOU HAD TO SPILL THE TRUTH... YOU AND YOUR CRAZY TALK ABOUT SEEING THE OLD MAN!



THE OLD MAN... ELIHU POKESWORTH IS DECENTLY AT REST NOW...



... AND HE'S CONTENT... REASONABLY SO, ANYWAY...

HMMM... "BUREAU OF INSPECTION HELD RIDDEN BY INEFFICIENCY"! I COULD HAVE TOLD THEM THAT, WITH ME NOT THERE ANY LONGER. I GOTTA SEE TO EVERYTHING!

THE END



EVER TRY TO FORETELL THE COURSE OF A PERSON'S LIFE? IT'S NOT EASY, BECAUSE LITTLE THINGS MAY CHANGE IT... AND PROVE THAT...

# YOU NEVER CAN TELL!



LOOKING AT FRANK TREMAINE AS A BABY AND OBSERVING HIS CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU'D BE POSITIVE THAT HIS FUTURE WOULD BE A BRIGHT ONE...



HE'S GOT A GOOD START, AND HE'LL HAVE EVERYTHING WE CAN GIVE HIM! YEGAR, THAT SON OF OURS WILL AMOUNT TO SOMETHING!

SO SAYING, MR. TREMAINE LEFT FOR HIS OFFICE! HE DIDN'T NOTICE THE CAT ON THE CURB, AND TROD ON ITS TAIL! HE RECOILED AS HE FELT THE STING OF THE CREATURE'S CLAWS...



WHAT THE...!

PESKY!



JUST A STREET ACCIDENT, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS! BUT IT LEFT A FATHERLESS CHILD WHO COULD NO LONGER HAVE THE CAREFUL UPBRINGING HIS PARENTS HAD PLANNED! INSTEAD, FRANK WAS REARED IN POVERTY...





WHAT HAPPENED WASN'T UNUSUAL! HE FELL IN WITH BAD COMPANY THAT DOMINATED HIS FORMATIVE YEARS! IT WAS THE FIRST STEP IN AN ANTI-SOCIAL CAREER...

THAT'S HIM, OFFICER!

COME BACK HERE, YOU!

...A CAREER WHICH COULD HAVE ONLY ONE ENDING!

NEW YORK

PUBLIC ENEMY SENTENCED TO LIFE TERM

FRANK TREMAINE SCORED BY JUDGE

EISEN CON

YES, A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY...ONE WHICH HIS PARENTS COULD NEVER HAVE DREAMED OF ON THAT DISTANT DAY WHEN...

HE'S GOT A GOOD START, AND HE'LL HAVE EVERYTHING WE CAN GIVE HIM! YESSIR, THAT SON OF OURS WILL AMOUNT TO SOMETHING!

BUT LIFE IS BUILT OF LITTLE THINGS! SUPPOSE, WHEN HE LEFT FOR THE OFFICE MR. TREMAINE HADN'T TROD ON THAT CAT'S TAIL...

WELL, KITTY...YOU'RE LUCKY! I ALMOST STEPPED ON YOUR TAIL!

ALL RIGHT, THEN...LET'S ASSUME HE DIDN'T! THERE WAS NO ACCIDENT THEN! AND FRANK WAS REARED IN COMFORT, CAREFULLY TRAINED AND EDUCATED! LOOK AT HIM NOW...AT HIS COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT...

...AND TO FRANK TREMAINE GOES THE SYMONS MEDAL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE FIELD OF BIOLOGICS!

HE BECAME DR. TREMAINE A GREAT RESEARCHER

AND THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES WHICH DEALT WITH HIM WERE DIFFERENT...

BLADE EXTRA DR. TREMAINE DISCOVERS VACCINE FOR VIRUS PNEUMONIA

SO YOU SEE THAT EVEN THE LITTLE THINGS A LIFE LIKE STEPPING ON A CAT'S TAIL CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING!



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